PORT

NOT FUNNY. SAY TINA **AND HARRY** Why New York's golden pair are suing FEATURES, PAGE 15



LIAM HAS TO TAKE IT ON THE NOSE Oasis star on assault charge



TROUBLED WATER FOR **PAUL SIMON** His new musical hits the rocks

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Newspaper of the Year for photographic

Saturday 7 March 1998 No 3,552

Charles finds a bosom pal at the opera

Prescott slaps an last year Xtra tax on rail tycoons

ransport Correspondent

OHN the PRESCOTT, the Peputy wine Minister, is planing "profit-sharing" deals with rivate train companies to claw ack money for the public purse. Despite denials of a "windpail tax" by both Downing Street and Mr Prescott, Whitehall ources made it clear that if train ranchise lengths, or propose a akeover, then ministers will ask or a share of any future profits.

Mr Prescott is extremely on cerned about gains made on bactiof railway privatisation. week saw seven directors it Great Western - one of the Tirst train companies to fall nto private hands - make more · squeezed more from the £140m

shan £15m in profits. Earlier this week, the Nat-Sanal Audit Office also attacked the speed of the sell-off of the cuation's rolling stock companies c which netted the public purse 21.8bn but were then sold on for (£2.6bn plus. One railway man-

ager alone made £33m on a deal with Stagecoach, the bus giant. h However, sources close to 1 Vir Prescott said that since no And the Franchise Director Eaction could be made retro- and the Regulator have made e-pectively, this measure was taot a "windfall tax". His junior Cabine colleague Gavin Strang found himself at the centre of political storm when he loated the idea on a BBC

годгатте. "What is likely is, if a train ompany seeks, say, an exten-Fion to its licence, we will be askng what benefits are there for Sthe passenger and the public ourse," a source said.

Mr Prescott himself referred LE bliquely to the plans in a radio nterview. However, he said he wouldn't be so sure" that sim-Felar deals would now follow, to scheat new rules. He pointed to Phie profit-sharing arrangement Rie had negotiated with regard rio the Channel Tunnel. "Clearly

I will be considering what powers I have to get the taxpayers' share in these matters, but we don't think the windfall tax is the way of doing it."

New powers to stop profiteering were first proposed by the former franchising director, when starting to sell off British Rail. He asked ministers for a claw-back option to retrieve excess profits - but Tory minisirms come to ask for longer ters were concerned that this would hamper BR's sell-off and "knocked the suggestion back".

> It is also understood that the performance of John O'Brien. the present franchising director, has been called into question. Mr Prescott believes that Mr O'Brien, whose contract expires later this year, could have

The ability to claw back profits is likely to feature in the forthcoming White Paper on transport. Mr Prescott added that ways to make the railway system more accountable were being considered.

"I'm obviously looking at these matters as to exactly what my powers are in these areas ... clear to me they don't have adequate powers. That's what I'm addressing myself to in the White Paper.

However, he stressed: "We're not introducing another windfall tax. There's no doubt about that. We want to see how we get a greater accountability into this railway system to stop what I believe might be a market practice [that is] subsidised by ... the taxpayer.

"What I made clear to the Franchise Director was that L like most other people, feel this privatised railway system turns people into millionaires at the expense of the passenger and the taxpayer. That's totally unacceptable."

The Prince of Wales meets Isabelle Vernet, who plays Vitella in the Welsh National Opera production of La Clemenza

Murdoch settles with Patten in book censorship fiasco

RUPERT MURDOCH last night apologised to Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong governor, and paid thousands of pounds in compensation in the dispute over his book dumped by HarperCollins.

vote of confidence by the me-

HarperCollins have "unreservedly apologised" for and withdrawn any suggestion that Mr Patten's book East and West was rejected for not being up to proper professional standards or being "too boring", added a

statement from the publishers. The HarperCollins executives accused by Rupert Murdoch of "screwing up" in the débacle over the book by Chris

dia tycoon. In a statement issued Eddie Bell, the company chair- after the statement was issued but when HarperCollins insiders spilled. were expecting sackings and resignations, Mr Murdoch praised his London team's "pro-

termination". Only a day earlier, Anthea Disney, Mr Murdoch's New York-based "corporate assassin", had flown into town amid expectations that heads would roll over the handling of his decision to drop Mr Patten's book, East and West, because of its criticism of China.

fessionalism, experience and de-

One HarperCollins source said that staff were expecting "blood on the carpets". However, following talks between Ms Disney, chairwoman of News Patten, were yesterday given a America publishing, parent company of HarperCollins; and

man, not a drop of blood was

"There are no winners or losers in the current controversy," said Mr Murdoch, who many would argue has emerged from the fiasco as a loser, "Mistakes have been made and we all share the responsibility.

"I have total confidence in the proven talents and abilities of Eddie Bell and the entire publishing team. Eddie, Adrian Bourne [managing direclegal affairs] in particular have had a difficult few days, but I know that their professionalism, experience and, above all, their

determination will take the company successfully forward."

staff at HarperCollins were told he would be making a longer

statement of his own on Monday. It is understood Ms Disney told executives that Mr Patten's claim for breach of contract would be settled out of court. That comes as no sumprise given comments made by Mr Murdoch in his Times newspaper on Tuesday. "I did not tell people to try

and censor the book or invent excuses not to do it," he said. "I said: Why don't you go tor] and Adrian Laing [head of and say we would rather have someone else publish this and

if there is any chance of losing money we will make good." Insiders said staff were surprised that there were no resignations or sackings and they

Mr Bell made no comment still felt uneasy about the future.

The Diana effect lingers on. The are to public opinion. The de-Queen has broken with tradition and decreed that the Union flag will from now on fly fullmast from Buckingham Palace 24 hours a day - so that it can be lowered to half-mast when

dies, writes Kim Sengupta.

Palace sources said yesterday's move shows how responsive the new, reforming Royals ately assuming that role.

the advisory Way Ahead Group. esture. The historian David Starkey said: "It means that ily's empathy with the "new

The Union flag has always flown at full-mast and around the clock at Windsor Castle and the Tower of London even when the Oueen is away. The Royal Standard is never lowered to half-mast as the Sovereign, according to protocol, never dies, the next in line immedi-

Court fire dashes hope for Louise

IT WAS never going to be a straightforward conclusion to what has become one of the most extraordinary court cases ever. According to the script editors it was supposed to be the day that the British au pair Louise Woodward begin an appeal hearing that would decide whether she walked free or was sent back to jail for killing baby Matthew Eappen.

Television crews and excited news editors had prepared themselves for an bour of impassioned speeches, tearful relatives and rabble-raising from

supporters back in Britain. Court 13 of the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston, Massachusetts, was packed six minutes before the appeal was due to begin. Moments earlier Woodward, 20, had arrived through a throng of camera crews and TV reporters.

The drama, however, came from an unexpected source. Five minutes before the start, fire alarms and flashing lights were activated. Hundreds of people were ushered out and commentators started speculating about a bomb threat.

Firefighters started rushing the basement of the 15-storey

building had caught fire. Emergency services said later that at least five people had been taken to hospital after an

explosion and a fire in the electrical vault area of the building. worker, was suffering from



Louise Woodward: appeal must wait until Monday

burns and four others, including court officers and one prisoner, were suffering from the effects of smoke. The cause of the fire was not known but firefighters said it was accidental.

Meanwhile the officials in court 13 announced that the hearing would be postponed until Monday. Woodward is believed to have left the building

almost immediately. The two legal teams had intended to present their 25minute arguments to back up lengthy written submissions already handed in to the seven

Supreme Court justices. Both prosecution and de the killing of the baby while she

into the building. They found fence are appealing against her that an electrical transformer in manslaughter conviction for was caring for him. The prosecution is to ask for

the jury's second degree murder verdict to be reinstated and a life sentence imposed, with no possibility of parole for One man, a maintenance 15 years. The defence is seeking a quashing of all convictions.

Friends for life; even in death not far apart

By David McKittrick

TWO FRIENDS gunned down ny loyalist renegades - Damien Firamor, a Catholic, and Philip Allet, a Protestant - were buried sesseday in the County Ar-, nega village of Poyntzpass, in

ther lived not far away from in other, socialised together ounter burst into their local bar tear that the week. and hed together when masked



Their families left two and a the rain was relentless and pititend both funerals. Everybody in the village seemed to be at both. The next big event in their

lives was supposed to be Philip's wedding, with Damien acting as his best man; no one ever thought they would instead be going to their graves together.

Damien's service came first, at the Catholic church in Chapel Street at noon. Philip had his service in the Presbyterian church in Meeting Street, just round the corner, at 2.30pm.

It rained all day, starting before Damien was buried and going on until after Philip was laid to rest. On a grey, cheerless day,

half hours between the cere- less as Northern Ireland's stream monies so that villagers could at- of killings. In Chapei Street, the village stood in a throng as Damien's coffin was brought slowly into the church. Only the rain broke the silence as Philip's three brothers, drenched, carried the coffin of his friend on its last journey. The little church was packed so most stood outside. Some sheltered under umbrellas while others stood bareheaded,

> Inside, the parish priest, Father Brian Hackett, attempted to address the killers, suggesting that peace might be on its way thay they might be Please turn to page 2

for over an hour, as the service

took its course.



As Robert Fisk continues his har rowing investigation into the plight of lead's impocent children, The Independent's appeal has been

flooded with donations from readers who have been touched by their plight. Yesterday we linked up with the charities Care International and Medical Aid for iraqi Children, which are aiready doing much to relieve poverty and sickness in Iraq. They will work dosely with us to ensure that your money helps bring medicines. to the children who most need

Please send cheques, made out to The Independent Basra Fund, to PO Box No 6870, London EH 581.

An up and down over the Union Flag

a member of the Royal Family

In the past the flagpole has been left bare when the Queen was not in residence. This caused a constitutional crisis when the Princess of Wales was killed while the Queen was at Balmoral. The public and sections of the press appeared incensed that there was no flag at half-mast. "Show us you care Ma'am", ran a typical headline.

Some constitutional experts detected a deeper, almost Blairite "vision thing" in the flag Buckingham Palace is accepted as a People's Palace". Others said it showed the Royal Fam-Britain'



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■Recipes from the Riviera How to create the authentic flavours of the south



Living on the moon We tell you how

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Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK

first half of 1997.

NDEPENDENT Tax raids stop trusts cheating Budget

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

A DAWN swoop on hundreds of millions of pounds in offshore trusts in a pre-Budget crackdown on tax avoidance schemes yesterday raised questions about the £12m trust held by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

The Inland Revenue acted after a tip off that the managers of a number of millionaires' offshore trusts were planning to dodge tax measures in Gordon Brown's 17 March Budget by switching the money back to Britain and passing it to their wives or children to avoid capital gains tax.

The Treasury took the rare step of bringing forward the tax to avoid losing sums which officials said could run into "hundreds of millions of pounds".

The move will boost Mr Brown's room for raising spending in priority areas, such as health and education, but it led to questions about Mr Robinson's own offshore trust by Tory MPs.

David Heathcoate-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, said he would be challenging Mr Robinson in a Commons debate next Tuesday on whether he would be affected by the change. "We want to know whether Geoffrey Robinson has already done this with his

Heathcoate-Amory. The Treasury said Mr Robinson had not transferred his trust to the mainland. Mr Robinson, a close friend of Tony Blair, has been advising the Chancellor on ways of closing tax loopholes.

avoidance has highlighted the there. the Government over Mr Robinson's continuation as a Treasury minister while the erage, high truancy, and few op-Chancellor is making tax avoid-

the Treasury, Dawn Primarolo said: "The Government is determined to stem tax leakage by detecting, detering and coun- lems of poverty and unemtering tax avoidance.

"We will therefore take action, to be included in the next Finance Bill (which will implement the Budget), to prevent avoidance of tax by those who dispose of an interest in, or originating from, a trust which has ever been an offshore trust.

The measure will have effect in relation to all disposals

on or after today." The exemption applied to people who had a lifetime interest in the income from older offshore trusts. They could sell their right to the income to somebody else, usually a tax-exempt offshore bank, in return for a lump sum free of capital gains tax.

For example, someone get ting £50,000 a year from an offshore trust fund invested in measures with immediate effect company shares worth £1m could sell their lifetime right to the income in return for, say, £500,000 tax-free.

In the budget, the Chancellor is expected to introduce a new starting rate of a 10p tax for the low paid to encourage more into work, but there could be more means testing of benefits. Treasury ministers have been considering taxing child benefit for the better off.

Mr Brown yesterday told a fringe meeting at his party's Perth conference he was discussing extending the "New Deal" proposals to the most run-down estates.

The Chancellor told a fringe own offshore trust," said Mr meeting at Labour's Scottish conference: "Up and down the country there are estates where not only large numbers are unemployed, but where there are no businesses, no industry, in some cases no shops, no banks, and where the amenities and facilities necessary to built a suc-But the clampdown on tax cessful community are not

ployment rates three or four times as high as the national avportunities for training or ance one of his Budget targets. further education, he said. "Un-The Financial Secretary to less we begin to tackle these problems we will not be able to say we have genuinely found a solution to tackle the prob-



Damien Trainor's father, Sean, being comforted by a relative at his son's funeral yesterday Photograph: William Cherry

Mourners at funeral of friends gunned down in Ulster appeal for harmony

afraid of peace and of living to-

"If you want to terrorise us, yes we are terrorised, if that's what terrorism is all about This it you ask as well with a body was carried we scared, yes you have scared along it, his grieving family

"But perhaps I could say to clinging to each other for supthe men of violence - Were port and solace. you scared by Damien and

Were you scared when you realised there were other ial. Damiens and Philips around Poyntzpass and, as it has Northern Ireland?"

Perhaps, he suggested, the writing was on the wall for the men of violence.

around Psyntzpass but I can ask by a little pile of bouquets.

realise that as we give our support to the peace negotiators." A little while later the village lined Railway Street as oblivious to the falling rain.

His fiancée was among them, going not to a wedding, as she had hoped, but to a bur-

The men of the village fell come home to us, all over passed, nodding sombrely to one another.

The coffin paused for a moment at the Railway Bar where the gunmen had carried "Maybe I am a dreamer, out their murderous work, maybe we're all dreamers and which is now marked

In the Presbyterian church, the Rev Joseph Nixon spoke of

the two victims: "Philip was one of the lads around the to Damien. "Philip was a young man of good character and a steady worker. Damien was always

obliging, a bright and cheery person. He was well-liked and "There is no difference between Catholic and Protestant.

We are all God's creation. We are all flesh and blood. The terrorist's bullet has in behind the cortège as it the same effect on us all. true - our hearts are numb our families into grief and

despair." The Presbyterian moderator, Dr Sam Hutchinson, echoed Father Hackett's endorsement of the political talks. in life, now greater in death."

"It seems to me that there is no alternative to the path of negotiation and no better time

than the present "Please support any effort village and was like a brother to make the whole of Northern freland the kind of harmonious community that Poyntzpass has been for so long."

, Back at the Railway Bar, two officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary stooped to read the inscriptions on the flowers, which had been placed around a small red candie, which despite the rain

somehow stayed alight. One card said "Unreal but It robs us of life and plunges and ache with pain at this unbearable loss of Philip and Damien."

Another described how Poyntzpass will always remember them: "Great friends

Ticket touts lose appeal

THREE PEOPLE caught : selling London Undergror tickets and travel cards yeste day lost appeals in a case tha may affect all touts, and evel motorists.

In dismissing the three men's challenge to theft con victions, Lord Justice Mantel in the Court of Appeal in Lon don said: "This appeal could have implications ... even for the ordinary motorist wh passes on the benefit of an un

expired parking ticket."

The judge, sitting with Mrs Justice Ebsworth and Judge Martin Stephens QC, said that in late 1996 the appellants Adrian John Marshall, Robe Peter Coombes and Birol Ere were video-recorded obtain ing underground tickets travel cards from members the public passing thrugh t barriers, and reselling them other potential customers.

They had been observe and recorded as part of an o eration by London Unde ground at Victoria station.

London Underground sa it had been deprived of reven which it might otherwise has expected to receive from the people who bought the ticked

Lord Justice Mantell said it matter came before a judge March last year. On that on sion Judge Hardy ruled that the components of theft we present save for the question dishonesty, which was a ma for the jury. In consequence, appellants later pleader gui to the indictment. asked for 78 other offence be taken into considerati Combes for 59 and Erea i 47. Marshall and Coom were placed on probation: Eren was ordered to serve

hours community service. They took their case to Court of Appeal seeking have the convictions set as claiming that Judge Har ruling was "erroneous".

The three claimed that the was "no evidence of artin tion to permanently den London Underground - I had intended to return the ti ets either direct to Lond Underground, or through third-party buyer without res to London Underground.

But Lord Justice Man said: "The appellants by the pleas having acknowledged they were acting dishonestly seems to us that there is nor son to consider the convicti

452 -

The decision was welcom by London Undergrow Spencer McManus, gener manager network services out mented: "Ticket touting...s" offence against which are must be taken. London Und ground, in conjunction w the British Transport Poli pursues these cases with go

London Underground 🗠 £30m a year through for which includes revenue through ticket touting.

Mother drowned baby after splitting from lesbian partner

from her lesbian partner, was yesterday ordered to be detained in a psychiatric hospital.

Cardiff Crown Court was told how Carol Stokes, 32, be-

her baby son when she split up O'Neill, decided they wanted a

ployment,"

child together. But she allegedly drowned 16-month-old Lewis in a bath just a week after Miss O'Neill walked out on her. Stokes, of Adamsdown,

ished responsibility.

ed they wanted a child and Leighton Davies QC, for the Stokes became pregnant by a prosecution, said: "These are male friend. During the pregtragic and bizarre circumstances. nancy, but particularly after the In 1994, she met and formed a birth, she suffered post-natal de-

A MOTHER who drowned after she and her lover, Colleen murder but guilty to manslaugh- O'Neill and they began living to- electrocute Lewis and herself in psychiatrists and social services ter on the grounds of dimin- gether. A year later they decid- the bath, but had failed." Stokes carried out her threat a week after Miss O'Neill told her she was leaving.

Mr Davies said: "In the months leading up to the death

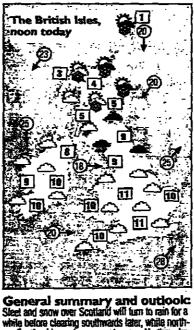
on several occasions. She openly expressed urges that she wanted to kill herself and her child. But nobody believed her threats were serious although Lewis was placed on the social came pregnant by a male friend. Cardiff pleaded not guilty to relationship with Colleen pression. She had even tried to she sought help and was seen by services at risk register."

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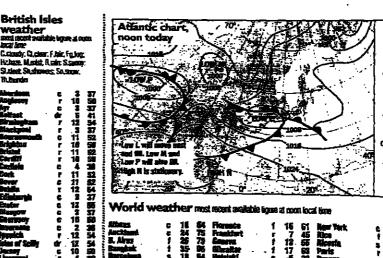
WEATHER



land and northern England will have outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Rain will clear during the evening but not before turning to sleet and snow over the higher ground. Wates and remaining parts of England will be cloudy with light rain in places and the risk of sleet and snow over northern hills in the exercise.

the evening.

Scotland will stay cold for a few days with sharp overnight trosts, and snow showers in the north and east until Tuesday. The rest of the country will turn colder, too, as the winds turn mainly northerly, with easiern England seeing the odd winby shower. Sheltered southern areas will, however, have some decent spells of sunshine. Wintry showers are going to clear from most areas by midweek but rain is likely to move into western parts of the UK later:





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AA Roadwatch

London, A1 Watterd Way, Majir & works continue both ways belieds Hill Circus and Fiveways Come. & December 1999. Greater London, A4020, Usbridge Ealing, Roadworks at Broughlee West, Until April 3. A406, between Hanger Lane Of and Ealing Common. Major not until March 20.

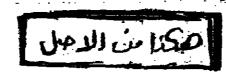
A5 Kilbum Park Road, Contral both directions for gas repairs May 2. A5200, York Way, Kings Cross reductions at Goods Way for long work on Maiden Lane Bridge. Use

Somerset, M5 J22-23. Major I works & constraintow. Until April 2 A46 Bath-Cold Ashton. Major works continue. Until July 30 West Midlands. M5 at the M6 Jiff ingham (M6). Namow lenss of M6 North due to resurfacing Occasional overnight closures April 17.

West Yorkshire, M62 J28-29. De to Leeds. Contrallow and rest Lintil Dec 31 1998. Greater Manchester, A666 Kearsley and Rakes (ane. N

Lancashire, M6 between 132 P (M55) and 133 Lancaster (A) closure. 2 lanes only either is

Out and about with AA Re watch ear 8336 481 in the late!



Bad boy can't stop looking back in anger

IN THE NEWS

LIAM GALLAGHER

ONCE AGAIN Oasis are in the ing like that and keep people infor their music, but for their socalled "rock'n'roll behaviour".

Only days after Noel Gallagher launched an attack on Diana, Princess of Wales, bis brother iam has been charged with assault occasioning bodily harm after allegedly head-butting a British fan and breaking his lose. Police said a 19-year-old English fan had been taking a photograph when a member of wrapped his arm around him nd broke his nose.

Liam Gallagher pleaded not uilty before magistrates, and vas released on bail until 9 June with the condition that he provide a \$A10,000 surety (£3,906).

It is the latest exploit from the nothers, who have been called he Kray Twins of rock, and by no neansage first time that Liam has been in trouble with the police.

John Peel, the Radio 1 DJ, said vesterday that Liam should grow up. "It's old-fashioned rock'n'roll, but it's also a pain in the neck," he said. It seems to be all right for him to behave like that because he's in a successful rock band, but if he did that in the real world he would probably get a kicking. It's really stupid behaviour.

"He should grow up, and be'd probably find he'd enjoy life a lot more if he did."

Steve Penk, of Capital Radio, said: "The guy is a thug. It's a good job he got a lucky break in a pop band, or he would certainly be in the slammer by now."

Buty n irvin, deputy editor of a head.

Mojo magazine, said Gallagher It wo was simply fulfilling his job description.

There is a tradition of the front man of a band being cocky and arrogant, and that is all he is doing.

"He is not the creative one, and when he is not actually out there performing, he is like a pride. caged tiger. He ends up in a cycle of pent-up aggression and truculence, but one does wonder how long they can go on behav-

headlines, and once again it is not terested. We must be getting close to saturation point."

Certainly Liam has always appeared to revel in his bad-boy

Last July he was cautioned for criminal damage after allegedly grabbing a cyclist's shirt and dragging him alongside the car in which he was a passenger. A few months later Liam was reported to have been ejected by police from a bar in Glasgow Airport. the band walked up to him, after he began ripping pages out of a book by Sir Paul McCartney.

But this tour has received more bad publicity than is usual - even for Oasis. The band was accused of unruly behaviour during the flight to Australia at the start of the tour, and narrowly escaped an airline ban.

Liam has also been accused of making advances to a young woman in Sydney. Julia Kerrigan said she planned to lodge a complaint, claiming that the singer had followed her from her hotel and had stuffed a used tissue down the front of her shirt, saving: "Here, I have something for you", before running away.

As so often happens when for them to be there - the music seems to disappear under an avalanche of rowdy behaviour and complaints.

Ticket sales for last night's concert were reported to be poor, and in Adelaide they attracted only 7,000 fans at £20 a ticket. A week earlier U2 had packed the stadium (capacity 12,000) at £60

It would seem that the Gallagher master-plan of becoming the "biggest rock band in the world" is in danger of collapsing unless they learn to show a little more respect to their fans.

But whatever the Gallaghers get up to, back at home their mum, Peggy, remains full of

"They will always be my little

Kate Watson-Smyth



Oasis go on tour, the real reason Liam Gallagher in Glasgow last December: 'When he is not actually out there performing, he is like a caged tiger' Photograph: SECC

WINNING BEHAVIOUR

At the 1996 Brit Awards, Liam grabbed the gold statuette and said: "Anyone tough enough to take us off the stage can come up now." Referring to the presenter, Chris Evans, he added: "It will take more than Ginger Bollocks to throw us off."

He then turned his back on the audience, bent over and pretended to ram the award up his bottom. He sniffed the end of the statuette as he staggered off

BROTHERLY LOVE

Liam's acceptance of his brother's domination - Noel refers to him only as "our kid" - has caused regular punch-ups between the two. They go days without speaking, even on tour, and Noel once broke a chair over his brother's head. "Our kid can only talk about him- .



self, how many birds he's s**gged and how many tables he's thrown across the bar," said

"I live for now, not for what happens after I die," said Liam. "I'm going to hell, not heaven. The devil has all the good

AND XENOPHOBIA

for silly for ing yanks."

In 1996 Liam pulled out of the band's American tour 15 minutes before the plane was due to take off, claiming he had to go house-hunting with his fiancée, Patsy Kensit (left). "We've got to be out by the weekend. I'm not going around touring the US when I've got nowhere to live. I've got to pack my gear and get a home sorted out. I can't go and look at ? houses while I'm in America trying to perform-

YOUR

Bulger killers 'treated badly'

By Iason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

THE TWO boys convicted of murdering two-year-old James Bulger moved a step closer vesterday to forcing the Government to change the way it deals with children accused of serious crimes.

Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, both now 15, were granted permission to take their case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Solicitors for the youths alleged that their trial in an adult court was "inhuman and degrading" treatment and the Home Secretary, then Michael Howard, should not have been able to set their "tariff" on how long they should serve in prison.

The European Commission of Human Rights, in Strasbourg, yesterday ruled that there was substance to the youths' complaints and that it was admissible for the European Court to make judgement on it.

A ruling in favour of the boys could affect scores of children being held for serious crimes and change the system of dealing with minors.

It would also force the Government to review the system which allows Home Secretaries to decide how long children detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure should serve. However, the case is likely to take many years before it reaches and court and even if it finds in favour of Venables and Thompson it would not lead to a re-trial or force the government to reduce the sen-

Karen Bulger, James's aunt, criticised yesterday's ruling, saying: "I think it's the wrong decision. They got a fair trial. They were treated as kids, they were interviewed as kids by the police. They should stop doing this and accept their punish-

The two boys were sentenced to serve a minimum of eight years. This was later increased to 10 years by the Lord Chief Justice and after a massive campaign led by James' mother Denise, the then Home Secretary, Michael Howard, further increased the tariff to 15 years.

This was quashed last year by the House of Lords and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who now has to decide on a new tariff for Thompson and Venables, Mr Straw has said that he would review their detention at the halfway stage of their sentences.

boayguara torbiaden to talk to the press

y John Lichfield

REVOR Recs-Jones, the sole survivor of ne roath accident which killed Diana, rincess of Wales, yesterday confirmed that e had regained sketchy memories of vents leading up to the crash.

He told French investigators in Paris that e stood by the new details he had given the Mirror, in an interview arranged by is employer, Mohamed Al Faved, without is knowledge.

But the judge leading the inquiry made Ar Rees-Jones promise that he would give i o more press interviews and that any furher memories which returned would be givn directly to the investigation team.

Reading between the lines, it is clear that oth Judge Hervé Stéphan, and Mr Reesones are unhappy with the circumstances a which the interview was conducted. The adge has summoned Mr Fayed to a meetng in Paris next week. Mr Rees-Jones asked he British embassy in Paris to make all the rrangements, including security, for his visto the French capital yesterday. On preious visits. Mr Fayed's organisation landled these arrangements.



Trevor Rees-Jones: Stands by details that he gave to the Mirror

tionship with his employer, Mr Rees-Jones's lawyer, Christian Curtil, said yesterday that is was "excellent". He said Mr Rees-Jones, a professional bodyguard, "only says what he is certain about, acts entirely independently, without any pressure of any kind, and accepts the contents of the

In his comments to the Mirror, the bodyguard said the Mercedes containing the princess's party had been closely followed by two cars and a motorcycle before the accident six months ago which killed Diana, Mr Fayed's son Dodi, and the driver, Henri Paul. But he did not say whether or not this was immediately before the crash. He also said that Diana had been conscious just after the accident and said "Dodi".

Judge Stéphan and his investigation team are said to have lost patience with the activities of Mr Fayed, who has constantly cast doubt on the efficiency - and even the honesty - of the French inquiry. His allegations that the crash was not an accident but a plot and an assassination are dismissed by French investigators as unsupported by a shred of evidence.

Although it seems likely that the Merccdes struck another car, probably a white Fiat Uno, just before it crashed, the French investigation still regards the drunkenness of the driver, Mr Paul, a Fayed employee, as the single most important cause of the

Sources close to the investigation also point out that the physical evidence suggests that the Mercedes ran into the Fiat Asked what was the nature of his rela- Mirror interview, even if he did not seek it." and not the other way round.

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Telephone will reveal your bank account

ly Michael Harrison

NEW telephone handset that nables subscribers to call up heir bank accounts, flight arival times and even the weather forecast on screen and at the ouch of a button will be aunched in Britain this au-

Called Easiphone, it is a combination of a conventional landset, a miniature keyboard und a six-inch screen. Users will also be able to go home shopning do a virtual high street anided by an voice prompts.

The nandset will retail at round £150 and BT, which is leveloping the product in parttership with the Cheshire-based

company Bizzyline, aims to sell I million in the first year. By 2000, it hopes one in every five homes will have an Easiphone.

The information displayed on the screen will be "real time". Subscribers will also be able to buy a miniature plug-in printer to make a hard copy. BT is in talks with 30 contentproviders, ranging from banks and airports, to retailers and rail companies, to supply data.

The new telephone is the first in a range of "multi-media" products being planned by BT which could revolutionise the home. It is also developing a web phone with a built-in Internet browser which will sell initially at £499 and a new

fering home shopping, FM quality audio, video games and access to the Internet 30 times faster than analogue modems.

BT will charge up to £80 a quarter for Home Highway. But the ultimate multi-media product will be a service providing Internet, telephony, video-conferencing, video-on demand and normal television

via a single copper wire link into the home. Trials of the system, based on a technology known as asymmetric digital subscriber loop, will begin in north-west London later this year.

The traditional UK telephony market is today worth box providing a certain amount £10bn a year. But BT estimates of credit to play video games.

Home Highway telephone of- that by 2002 it will have been overtaken by revenues from multimedia applications such as interactive television.

Provided it gets regulatory clearance from Brussels, a consortium of BT, BSkyB, Midland Bank and Matsushita, will launch a new service known as British Interactive Broadcasting later this year. It will be available on both satellite and terrestrial digital television, offering everything from home shopping and banking to public service information and games.

Subscribers will be able to buy digital "cash tokens" that can be inserted into the set top

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THE ex-wife of a businessman accused of arranging a failed nitric acid attack on her yesterday denied she had anything to do

with the incident. Susan Humphrey, 37, was recalled to give further evidence at Exeter Crown Court in the (rial of her former husband, 51year-old Peter Humphrey.

The prosecution has claimed that Humphrey did not throw the acid, but arranged the attack at his then estranged wife's home because of his obsessive jealousy over the breakdown of his nine-year marriage.

The acid thrower has not been caught.

On that night, Mrs Humphrey's babysitter, 21-yearold Beverley Hammett, was scarred for life when the acid was thrown when she answered the door of Mrs Humphrey's secluded home, called Camelot, in Seaton, Devon.

At the start of his re-examination today, defence counsel Gilbert Gray put to her: "If you want a man removed from your life, you are prepared to be dishonest, aren't you?", to which

The counsel put to her that

if acid was thrown at the front door Mr Humphrey - whose household products manufacturing business dealt in acid would be in deep trouble.

acid attack plot

to ruin husband

Ex-wife denies

Mrs Humphrey replied: "If acid was thrown at anybody's front door and anybody dealt in acid would not anybody automatically be in trouble?"

But Mr Gray suggested: "You knew that man would be put in the frame?" She replied: "I refuse to answer that. I think it is a ridiculous question."

Mrs Humphrey, who wept in the witness box at some stages of her evidence, said: "You are trying to put doubt in the jury's mind," and added: "I have told the truth totally."

Humphrey from Axminster. Devon, has pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting a person or persons unknown to cause grievous bodily harm with intent to Mrs Humphrey on July 10,

Mr Gray put to Mrs Humphrey: "Did you have anything to do with the throwing of acid at Camelot?" - to which she replied: "I had nothing to Mrs Humphrey replied: "No, I do with the throwing of any

"Have you spoken to any- jury.

body, ever had any friends to help you?" asked counsel -"Never," she replied.

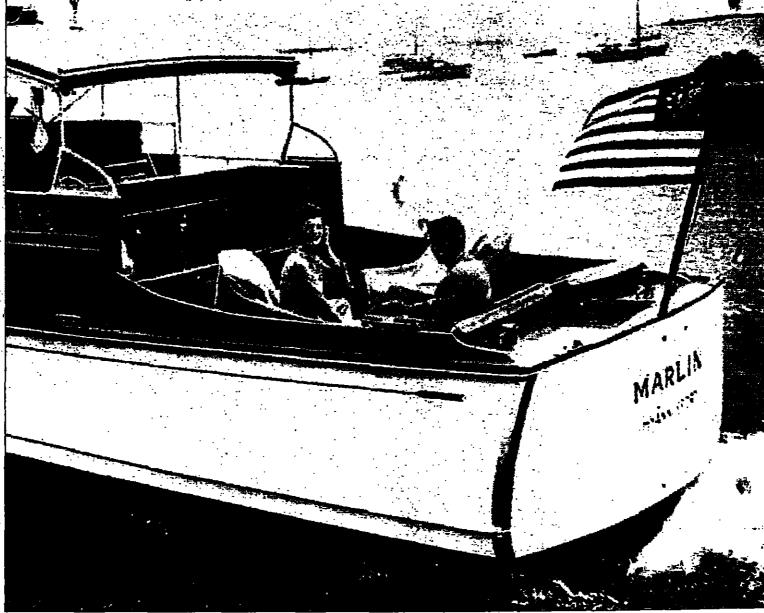
"You do not know of anybody else who might have had anything to do with it?" asked counsel - "I would not know anyone who would do such a horrendous act," said Mrs Humphreys.

On the night of the incident, the court has heard, Mrs Humphrey had gone to hospital to see her sister, while Humphrey was in a country pub with two women.

Mr Gray put it to Mrs Humphrey that in the past she had made an allegations that her first husband, 49-year-old Peter Culley, had tried to strangle her. She also told Mr Gray she did not remember another incident in which she said Mr Culley tried to strangle her after a row over a radio.

In answer to a question from ludge Graham Cottle, Mr Gray said the purpose of the crossexamination was to show making false allegations was "no novelty" to Mrs Humphrey.

The trial was adjourned until Monday, when the judge will sum up the evidence to the



For sail: The Marlin, a 52-foot motor yacht which was the scene of glamorous trips and high-level Cold War talks by US President John F Kennedy (pictured with wife Jackie). The yacht is expected to fetch around £125,000 when it is sold by Christie's in New York next month

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THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Store seeks cashback after planning upset

A COUNCIL is facing a crippling compensation claim after agreed planning permission for a new superstore was overturned following a campaign by

Alnwick District Council faces a £3m claim from Safeway after it was ruled that the council was "grossly wrong" in granting permission for a superstore. The council, in rural north Northumberland, collects only £1.5m from its 31,000 council tax payers, and has a total annual budget of £13m.

The decision by Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, to refuse permission for the superstore could . have wider implications on the permission when the clear future purchase of land with outline planning permission.

Safeway is set to claim the difference in the price of the land, on the outskirts of Alnwick, before and after the decision. Land with outline planning permission is of greater value to developers.

Mr Prescott's decision marks

The ruling reads: "The council was grossly wrong to grant

town centre."

a victory for villagers in Almwick. The civic society, town council and chamber of trade all opposed the store. Peter McIlroy, of Alnwick

Civic Society, said: "We have never been able to understand how the council came to be wriggling on this particular

have destroyed the town centre. The council may face a com-

evidence was, and is, that it would adversely affect the vitality and viability of Alnwick

Aliwick District Council's chief executive. Lawrie St Ruth, said: "I'm astonished with this decision. Why Alnwick has been singled out by them."

used and heavy-handed intel ference defies comprehension Any compensation claim word not affect services, he adde The council is to take legal at vice on a possible challenge

the decision. A Safeway spokesman sai "We are very disappointed va this decision. We do not become "Alnwick is a market town, that the store would have to a Safeway superstore would a negative effect on the tow

centre - quite the contrary. This store would have prepensation claim - but this will vented the leakage of trail be peanuts compared to the cost away from Alirwick. In the log decline.

"We will be seeking com pensation from the council. W paid a price which reflected th

outline planning consent. "This has severe implica-tions when purchasing land planning consent is now not the concrete base it once was. -

"Contracts may now hav

sentenced to 21 years RUC assault charge

A ROBBER who left a policeman with brain dam- A SENIOR Scottish police officer is to head u age after beating him about the head with a ham- a new investigation into allegations of assault b mer, was jailed for 21 years at the Old Bailey RUC men on a terrorist cousin of Sinn Feinfires

· PC Andrew MacDonald, 31, was praised by Judge Michael Coombe for tackling Gary ages after he was left badly beaten as policisme Lawrence, 25, when he saw him robbing a petrol foiled an IRA ambush of a top detective in each station in Woolwich, south London. The police Belfast four years ago. He was later sentence officer's skull and arm were fractured, he spent to 25 years for his part in a murder conspiracy three months in a wheelchair and has been un- which he denied. At the time of is arrest he sel able to return to work since the assault eight fered a broken leg, two fractured ribs, around mouths ago. After the "violent struggle" tured lung and multiple cuts and bruises Lawrence, from Deptford, south-east London, was found hiding in an alley. He was found guilty of Complaints in Northern Ireland said yesterds robbery and causing grievous bodily harm, jailed that Strathchyde's Assistant Chief Constable for six years for the robbery and 15 years, to run Jim Orr would carry out an internal inquiry int consecutively, for the GBH.

Policeman's attacker Inquiry ordered into

ident Genry Adams. David Adams, 39, was awarded £30,000 dam

The Independent Commission for Police alleged RUC misconduct.

River flood alerts

FLOOD alerts were issued in Wales last night after a second day of torrential rain. Top priority Red warnings were issued to householders near four South Wales rivers - the Ely in Cardiff, Ewenny at Pencoed, and Ogmore and Llynfi at Bridgend and Maesteg. Flooding also hit Machynlleth and Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales.

Mars chance

A BOOKMAKER cut odds for an astronaut landing on Mars before 2020 by three-quarters after Nasa's announced water had been found on the Moon. William Hill said it reduced odds from 200-1 to 50-1. The discovery of water paves the way for permanent lunar bases and the Moon to be used as a staging post to other planets.



5/NEWS

What I have to prove, by Donatella Versace

By Tamsin Blanchard

DONATELLA VERSACE took the unprecedented step yesterday of hosting a press conference, to preview her second confection for the house since her brother's death last year. "I'm very nervous," she confessed. "I think I have more to prove ... It was easier when Gianni was here."

Dressed in a black trouser suit and spiky black patent leather boots, Donatella fingered the dark sunglasses bearing her family name, her petite fingers weighed down by huge diamond crustaceans. Her brother Santo, the business brains behind the company, watched her pensively from one side. "The collection is about today and what's going on in the world," she said. "It's very important to be in touch with reality." Quite where the Versace take on reality meets everyone else's is unclear. For most women, a lilac chiffon ruffled evening dress, a metallic bouclé trouser suit, a pair of com-bat boots with faux diamonds studded in the heels, a canary yellow fox-for-collared cashmere coat, or a silver chain mail allin-one pant suit, fly far into the realms of fantasy. But for Donatella, there is nothing impractical about these clothes: "Personally, I like pants for day and skirts for evening. The fabrics don't wrinkle, so it's easier to travel in them." On Concorde maybe, but try getting the chain mail all in one through the metal detector.

Donatella also put to rest rumours of who will design the next haute couture collection for the house. The British designers Antonio Berardi, Antony Price and Deborah Milner have all been mentioned in connection with the job. "I've been approached by people, and I'm flattered," she said. But for the forseeable future, the job remains in her hands, with the help of de-

si, Hassistants from Central St Martin's. The collection itself is confident and assured. Models walk down a Swarovski crystal glittering catwalk, wearing the silhouette that Donatella has decreed will be the look of next autumn: long and lean. Skirts are almost floor length; jackets have narrow kimono sieeves. Colours range from purple to black, with silver and a splash of yellow.



Glitter girl: Naomi Campbell models a gown at the Versace collection in Milan Photograph: Luca Bruno/AP

Hunting ban Bill runs out of time

By Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

IACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, is under pressure to announce an inquiry into blood sports to head off the Labour MPs' demands for a ban on foxhunting after a Private Member's Bill yesterday looked doomed to a lingering death.

After last Sunday's mass march on London by the countryside lobby, dominated by the hunting, shooting and fish-ing fraternity, the Bill to ban fox-hunting was slowly dispatched with a whimper.

The auti-hunting campaign managed a token protest of 12 bedraggled people, with four banners, in the rain outside the Commons.

The Tory old guard who led the assault on the Bill were nearly tripped up by new technology. Michael Heseltine, who led the charge, was in full flow during his speech, when his mobile telephone went off in contravention of a ruling by the Heseltine, a former minister in row, last night led calls for an coming out."

charge of technology, fumbled independent inquiry to allow a with the instrument before carrying on. Supporters of the Bill tried to force the pace by balting a debate on one amendment with a closure vote.

make a point of order during a division - was passed around during the vote as the supporters of the Bill cried foul over the slowness of their opponents.

The Serjeant at Arms was dispatched to investigate, but it was clear that the number of amendments would leave the Bill too little parliamentary ground from 'no time this session' time, and it will get the coupe de grâce next Friday. Tony Blair, who was in Scot-

land, told MPs last year that Labour's election manifesto commitment to allow a free vote had been fulfilled. But the size on the Bill's second reading last demands will not go away.

A cross-party group of MPs, including the Labour MP Kate bate strengthened the case for Hoey, who are seeking a "mid- an independent inquiry be-Speaker, Betty Boothroyd. Mr dle way" out of the foxhunting cause so many new things were

An inquiry has not been ruled out by Michael Foster, the Labour MP who introduced the Bill. Supporters of the ban fear The opera hat - needed to an inquiry will be used to put the issue off until after the next election, but it may keep alive their hopes. They were furious with Mr Straw for saying the Government had no mandate for a ban. Former Labour frontbencher, Kevin McMamara said: "There will be ising Labour supporters ... who will see this as a sheer shift of

> to 'no time ever' ". Mr Straw is auxious to avoid the Government's Crime and Disorder Bill being targeted in the autumn by anti-hunting MPs to outlaw foxhunting.

Government sources conof the record 260-vote majority firmed that Home Office officials were studying an inquiry among November was a warning that the the options for dealing with public concern about blood sports.

Ms Hoey said: "Today's de-

Library book 135 years overdue

A BOOK which went missing from a county council library 135 years ago was today back in its rightful place on the shelf.

The book, De Naturis Rerum, which was borrowed from Stafford Library in 1863, was discovered in the library of the University of Chicago. Since it was borrowed it has accrued a fine of more than £4,000, but Staffordshire's libraries com-

mittee agreed to waive the fee. Yesterday Staffordshire University librarian Kevin Ellard acted as postman to return the book on behalf of colleagues in

the United States. The book, which is described

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rials of Great Britain and Ire- encourage people to return land during the Middle Ages", was published by Longmans.

as the "Chronicles and Memo- man Joyco Merry said: "I would books more promptly than this, but it is a pleasure to have our Library committee chair- book back."



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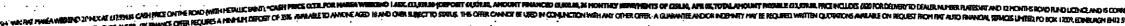
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A windswept farewell to a comic genius

fans, television and showbusiness stars, and Ireland's President Mary McAleese braved lashing rain to bid final farewells to Ireland's favourite wit, Dermot Morgan, star of the Father Ted television comedy. who died after a suspected heart attack at his London home last Saturday, writes Alan Murdoch.

St Theresa's Church in Mount Merrion, south Dublin was packed to hear his friend Father Michael Paul Gallagher say that "thousands are feeling the loss of a personal friend, though they never knew him". Ireland had "lost a comic genius," who was widely loved.

Morgan, 45, was best known in Britain for his role as the genial rogue Ted Crilly in the Channel 4 sit-com, banished to un island with two other priests.

His former wife, Susanne, and their two sons Donnchadh. 19, and Robert, 16, were present as were his partner of the last 11 years, Fiona Clarke, and their son, Ben, three.



The singer Chris de Burgh and his wife, Diane, at St Theresa's in Dublin for the funeral of actor Dermot Morgan yesterday

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Rail bosses cash in on privatised

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

RAILWAY privatisation produced a new set of millionaires yesterday after Britain's biggest bus company got the green light to purchase one of the nation's high-speed train services.

Seven rail executives will share profits of more than £15m -a rise on average of 7,000 per cent on their initial investment after the buy-up by the bus giant FirstGroup of Great Western Holdings, which runs services from London to Wales and the South-west and trains m the North-west.

The deal angered local pasenger groups and rail campaigners who point out nearly 20 per cent of trains run late on the company's flagship Great Western service.

but only after he secured a fr75m package of benefits" for users of the new FirstGroup train company On Great West. John O'Brien, the franchistrain company. On Great Western, £32m worth of new trains free travel.

In addition, there will be fines for trains running late -£250 for 20 minutes late, £500 for 30 minutes late and £1,000 if cancelled altogether. However, Trevor Smallwood, Firstwould only cost the company £1m.

erpool - £1m will be spent on additional passenger benefits and on Great Eastern -already owned by FirstGroup - all 96 slam-door trains will be obased out by the end of 2002:

Desoite the extra cost for the

deal, FirstGroup say it good investment. The two a companies are receiving in than £200m in public substitution this year and Mr Smallway said Great Western Hold would make "not less for £25m" profit.

Prime Minister, was "notion happy" with the arrangen But the last government's we regulatory powers left h Prescott with little alternative "I don't have the power t

Group's chairman, said this ness manager, I would not be

On North Western - a com-

John Prescott, the De-

With a White Paper koming this summer, the Deputy Pan Minister is sure to be additional legislative armoury. In statement, he said: "Whilst I welcoment, he said: "Whilst I welcoment, he said: "Whilst I welcoment." the best deal in the private

sengers, the man with most make from his two-year trip of will be ordered to be in service
by June 2002, and all seasonticketholders will get a week's
free travel rose quickly to head up I Great Western InterCity servi

A blunt-speaking patriard in 1993 he told the then secre tary of state for transport Joh MacGregor that "as an expensional railway bus in the putting my money into a train operating company."

Fortunately he did. Hi lenter. muter network centred on Liv- £37,500 investment in 1996 has see the now risen by nearly 10,000 pc palmei w cent to more than £3.7m. Oth maximum ens also benefited. The average recommendation which includes rice et collectors and train drivers invested £200 and will see wind an shales ... falls of £30,000. maled Section 1

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'Have a go eyes': James Phillips (left) and his accomplice girlfriend Christine Clapp-Smith Photograph: Photon

£1 m raids of underworld's 'Ayatollah'

A FEARED underworld figure - dubbed "The Ayatollah" was convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of masterminding a string of armed raids on prestige jewellers and other targets.

James Phillips, 32, from Greenwich, south-east London, was remanded in custody for sentence later this month. He had denied robbery, attempted robbery and possession of firearms. Phillips was leader of the

gang and brains behind the robberies which spanned four years and netted more than £1 million, the court was told. He reconnoitred the rob-

beries, selected targets, planned the escape route and provided the getaway cars, the court actual raids, but "procured,

aided and abetted others." Among them was his longterm girlfriend, Christine Clapp-Smith, who is also awaiting sentence after being convicted last July of robbery and possessing firearms

Bermondsey, south London, helped him set up two of robberies.

"Her speciality was robbing jewellers," said Michael Wors-

ley, QC, prosecuting.

The pattern was similar it each case. Two men would deach case. Two men would deach case in a get and then escape in a get it. a job and then escaparately vay vehicle."

In the first raid he am

Spections refer

wide

Phillips were seen together of

a Bond Street jeweuer a proposing as customers are proposing as customers. a Bond Street jeweller's vide rying out the reconnaissance to the 'As soon as she was in the shop, he sidled in after her. The shop, he sidled in aires and looked at the counters. She had been beading and be a leading and beading was plainly playing a leading was plainly playing a leading

part in sussing out the jewent in the shop and the barriers the life of the shop and the s ed," said Mr worsey.

Everyone was terrified of the said to one of his terrified to to one of his terrifi Phillips, according to one of his former gang members, who gave evidence for the prosecution. He had "have a go eyes and exercised a hold over gang eard.

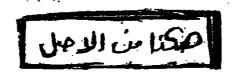
He did not take part in the actual raids, but "procured, them to carry out the raids."

them to carry out the raids.

Phillips was caught after Flying Squad operation. On gang member had confessed to volved another man, believing to be walked st July of robbery and possing firearms.

Clapp-Smith, 48, from termondsey, south London, errordsey, south London, controlled to the social security. Both mention gave statements of Phillips in the social security.

volvement. They are also awaiting sen They are also awaiting various tence, after admitting various



Son of real-life 'Fugitive' in battle to prove his father's innocence only son of Dr Sheppard, is unconvinced the basis of the story formed the basis of the



The Fugitive has still not been completely cleared of a murder he did not commit despite new DNA evidence

Dr Sam Sheppard was acquitted in 1966 of beating his wife to death after spending 10 years in prison. However, unlike in the television version, starring David Janssen, and the movie with Harrison Ford, Dr Sheppard became "a broken and bitter man, turned to alcohol and painkillers ... and died four years later from liver complications," said Terry Gilbert, the attorney for the Sheppard estate which is oursuing the case through the Ohio Supreme Court.

His body was exhumed in September for a forensic tests. Comparing the DNA of Dr Sheppard and samples found in a smear from Marylin Shep- er, who is currently serving a which he passed.



Sheppard on his way to jail after being convicted in 1954

ple from the original crime elderly widow in 1984. Eberling scene, has led to calls for a re-

The defence is pointing the finger at Richard Eberling. the Sheppards' window clean-

has denied the murder of Mrs Sheppard, and according to authorities, was subjected to two polygraph tests during the original investigations in 1954,

Sam Reese Sheppard, the

successful, he could stand to gain \$2m (£1.25m).

Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the county prosecutor, argues that Sam Reese Sheppard has no legal standing. "If the Supreme Court says that the statute of limitations has run its course, then there is no law suit. What I am saying is that it has, because Sam Sheppard had never sought a wrongful incarceration claim, nor did he say that he would seek anything from the state of Ohio."

If the case does go ahead, the burden of proof for innocence will lie with the defence, We are hopeful for a successful outcome. The last time, Sam Sheppard was vilified by the press and the community. Allegations were flying around that he was acquitted because he had a slick lawver. This time we will prove his innocence," said Terry Gilbert.

Block on backdoor assisted places

COUNCILS will be stopped from introducing "backdoor" lands: assisted places schemes under ing children out of the Government changes to legislation before the Commons.

The national assisted places cation. scheme, which subsidised bright some the time pupils from low-income families in private schools, was abolished the health after the tame to power. The therefore have power to preduce infant class sizes.

However, Conservative-controlled Surrey County Council announced recently that it intended to send 200 children from poor backgrounds to a private school.

Ministers have introduced amendments to the School Standards and Framework Bill to give the Secretary of State power to block attempts by local authorities to introduce their own version of the scheme.

Stephen Byers, the schools standards minister, has made it support low-income children clear that the Government does in independent schools." not intend to interfere with long tanding arrangements and councils would not, for ex- allow authorities to pay for ample, be prevented from buy-places in music and ballet at priing places for special needs pupils in private schools. Lincolnshire County Council has bought places for pupils at fee-

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many years. Details of the Surrey scheme and any others which were proposed would be studied and the Secretary of State for Education should be allowed.

Commons committee considering the Bill: "The Government opposes local education authorities buying places in independent schools, thereby takmaintained sector and offering them a different type of edu-

"This is not partnership, but creates divisions in the school

The Secretary of State would which local authorities could provide places in private schools. He hoped to use it rarely, if at all.

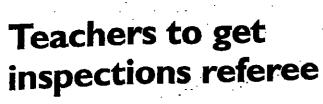
Dick Davison, of the Independent Schools Information Service, said: "The assisted places scheme is an issue on which new Labour is stubbornly old Labour.

"We are making such promising contact with them in other areas, it is a shame that their minds are closed over the idea of using public money to

It was inconsistent, he added, for the Government to vate schools while barring them

from academic facilities. Dr Andrew Povey, chairman of Surrey's education compaying Stanford School for mittee, said: "We welcome the Government's positive attitude towards working in partnership with independent schools.

We look forward to continuing dialogue and the subwould decide whether they sequent development of a variety of schemes which will Mr Byers told the House of benefit Surrey children."



TE CHERS aggrieved about the conduct of Ofsted inspec- a "tiny" number of complaints tions will be able to complain to about inspectors - either allean "Ombudsman", the Gov- gations about their conduct, or ernment is due to announce. next week.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, and the Chief Schools Inspector, Chris Woodhead, will announce the appointment of an independent arbitrator, fulfilling a pledge made last year in the education White Paper.

The move will be welcomed by teachers' leaders and critics of Ofsted, who have complained about a "reign of terror" being conducted in schools.

But sources at Ofsted were quick to make it clear that the new complaints procedure will not "a "court of appeal" over judgements in inspection reports. "This will not be an oppartunity for a school to seek to change a judgement that it is failing to deliver an acceptable stan- offer a further, independent dard of education," they said.

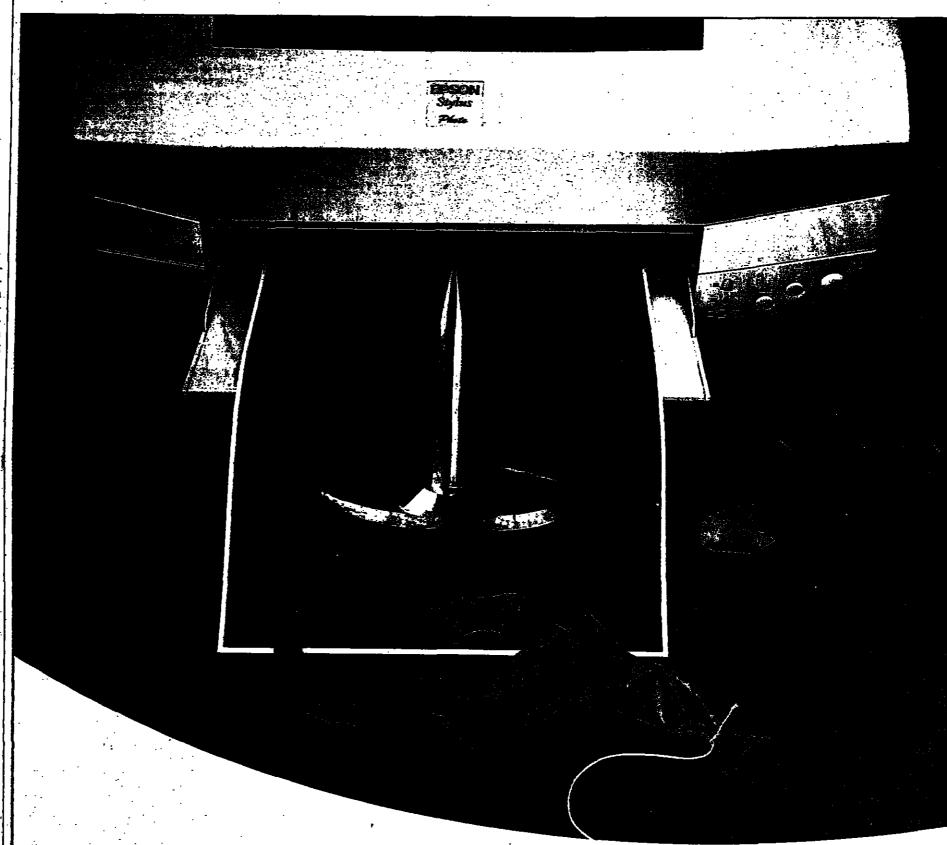
Ofsted said that there were complaints that judgements were not based on evidence.

They were taken very seriously, the sources said. Inspectors were required to abide by a code of conduct - which included an insistence that judgements about schools were based on evidence, not "ideological baggage".

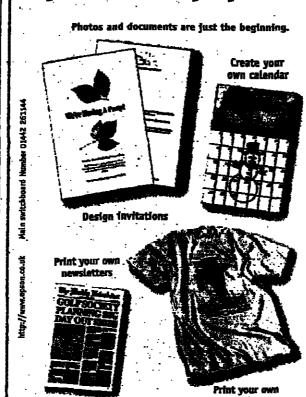
Schools with complaints about the conduct of inspections were encouraged first to take them up with the registered inspector leading the inspection team, or the contractor which employed them.

Most were resolved by "sensible communication" at an early stage. If this proved impossible, complaints were dealt with by Ofsted officials.

The new arbitrator would complaint mechanism.



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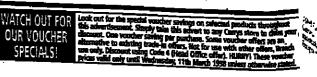


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(right) waiting to go underground for the last shift at South Crofty, and the. Cornish flag flying defiantly (left), with the pithead behind

Cornwall's tin men bid final farewell to 4,000 years of industry

Britain's last tin mine has been sold. and yesterday Cornwall's last 150 tin miners worked their final shift. Although there is still enough tin to keep miners in work for many years, its world price has fallen so far it is no longer profitable to mine.

mine, near Redruth, has been run at a loss, its workforce waiting for the a half million gallons of water are price of tin to rise. Now its owners pumped out of the mine every day of South Crofty does not help the will wait no longer and a hoped-for government bail-out failed to emerge. On Thursday - St Pirran's Day, the Patron Saint of Cornwall and of tin - the last piece of tin was miners. A few of the 150 remaining auctioned at a hotel.

the news leaked out yesterday that the mine manager, David Giddings, had bought a controlling share. Michael James, a miner for 22 years, said: "We have been sold down the river but there's nothing we can do about it." Mr Giddings said: "I was offered the shares, so I bought 8.6 million of them and became major ers worked hard to try to save the shareholder of South Crofty plc. But mine. The workforce took a pay cut it is a personal transaction, no different from me buying shares in ICI.

THE LAST piece of tin from were working with him, he was working to his own agenda. It is scan- it. It's in the blood." dalous, it is just shocking."

and hard hats stained pink over the lift in teams of eight and were low-For the past 13 years South Crofty ered 3,000ft into the ground. It is unlikely the mine will reopen: one and and once that stops - on Friday, 13 March - the mine will flood.

Before the tin price collapsed in 1985, South Crofty employed 750 will stay to help close South Crofty But the miners, initially resigned but most will start new jobs or go on to but most will start new jobs or go on the dole. Several of those already made redundant now earn £3.35 an hour packing daffodil bulbs.

Mark Kaczmarek, who worked at South Crofty for 17 years with his father and brother, said the miners do not want other jobs. "This mine has been a mother to a lot of people and it's being allowed to die:" The minand doubled productivity.

Bernard Ballard, operations man-

Sue Swift, chair of Kerrier coun- at risk and you are relying on your cil, said: "All the time I thought we partner. That builds very strong relationships. You love it or you hate

Redruth and nearby Cambourne Miners arriving for the final shift were built on mining. At the height yesterday were dressed in overalls of the Industrial Revolution there were 350 mines in Cornwall. Local years from tin dust. They got into the MP Candy Atherton said: "If you have had a mining tradition for 4,000 years, generations of people have relatives who have worked in mining. It is very sad and the closure general sense of decline in Cornwall."

> The miners re-emerge at the end of the final shift and are hosed down by their colleagues as they stand in the lift cages. Geoffrey Harvey, who worked in the mine with his son Richard, said: "At least he's of an age where someone will give him a job. Who is going to employ a 53year-old?" Cedric Patterson said: "We had expected the mine to close for some time, but the mood down there today was very sombre."

Outside the gates of South Crofty a crowd gathered, waving Cornish flags; to hold a vigil for the miners. One of those present, Strart Gullimore, said: "It is a very said day. Closing the mine is a stupid thing to do - it is wrong from a practical as



Theatre bars brewery scheme

By David Lister Art News Editor

> CAMPAIGNERS whose battle to save a community theatre was backed by the actress Susannah York have won their fight to stop it being turned into a pub.

An inquiry on the The Waterside Theatre in Stratfordupon-Avon yesterday found in favour of the District Council, which opposed plans by the JD Wetherspoon brewery to open

a bar and restaurant on the site. York had told the inquiry in an emotional speech: "Once a theatre is gone, no matter how large or small, it is another brick removed from the foundations of our culture." Wetherspoon appealed to the environment department after the council blocked its application for permission to change the theatre.

Inspector Gyllian Grindey dismissed Wetherspoon's appeal, stating: "This would harm an interest of acknowledged importance, namely the local distinctiveness and uniqueness of the town."

The campaigners, who include councillors, amateur thespians and residents, were backed by staff at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, who added their congratulations and pledged continuing support to The Friends of the Waterside Theatre. Councillor Dr Geoffrey Lees, who led the council's campaign, said everyone was delighted. "There has been an overwhelming reaction to the decision. We all delighted and are very grateful to everyone who backed us. I have written to Susannah York thanking her for her wonderful contribu-

The council will now apply for lottery and arts council funding to refurbish the venue, and will also make council funding available for the project.

In London it was announced yesterday that the National Theatre had bought the Old Vic Mirvisch Enterprises Ltd, owners of The Old Vic theatre.



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Blair warns off Scots assembly troublemakers

Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair signalled a purge of troublemakers from the candidates' list for the Scottish terday to the Labour Party in Perth to fight off the threat of the Scottish National Party.

The Prime Minister told his party he wanted to field the best candidates in the Scottish Parliamentary elections next year. which was seen as a clear warning that those who indulge in in-fighting will not be on the candidates' list.

"This isn't about stopping any particular person - it is about ensuring high quality candidates throughout Scotland. No one has an automatic right to selection. Scotland deserves the best from Labour at local and national level. That is what it will get," he said.

His remarks put question he declared. marks over some left-wing MPs who could be possible candidates for the Labour list, including Dennis Canavan, the cut benefits to lone parents. MP for Falkirk West.

It is unclear how many Scot-

the post of the first minister of social justice. the Scottish Parliament.

Henry McLeish, the Scottish Parliament in a rallying call yes- to draw up the devolution plans, also announced this week he would be standing for the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Blair said the referendum on Scotland showed the settled will of the Scottish people and he described the elections as a "new dawn for Scotland", with a warning to the Tory hereditary peers in the House of Lords not to block the legislation.

The Prime Minister also set out his vision for a second term of office insisting that Labour's aims would only be realised on the rock of a sound economy.

"The rock upon which everything we do is stable prudent management of the economy,"

He defended the reform of the welfare state, which includes the controversial plans to

The Prime Minister said the Budget would push forward tish Labour MPs will opt for the these reforms by promoting Scottish Parliament. Donald work and independence,

Dewar, Secretary of state for insisting that could go hand in Scotland, is expected to run for hand with compassion and

"New Labour is the party of economic competence in minister responsible for helping Britain today. It was never enough to say we were more caring and more compassionate, it is meaningless unless you deliver on the economy," the Prime Minister said.

"I want us to be the first Labour government in history to achieve a full successive second term in office."

But his message to the Scottish party was "keep the faith and we will win again", telling those present that government was a tough business and hard choices had to be made.

And joking about recent press reports that he was about to convert to Catholicism, Mr Blair urged the party to keep the faith then he joked: "According to the newspapers, I keep sev-

In a wide-ranging speech, the Prime Minister also defended the proposals to charge students £1,000-a-year to study at university, saying it would release much-needed resources for higher education and lift the cap



Railying the faithful: Tony Blair addressing delegates to the Scottish Labour Party conference in Perth yesterday

Photograph: Jeff Mitchell/Reuter:

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FIRST FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

rebellion over war pensions By Colin Brown Social Security showing that Chief Political Correspondent the department was aiming to cut £2bn off disability spending

New threat of

THE Government was facing a fresh welfare rebellion last night ther it abnoranced that it was carrying out a threat by the past. government. Tory government to impose a ... for deaf ex-soldiers.

The veteran welfare camprotests at the Government decision to endorse a decision which I about had vehemently attacked when it was proposed by the Tories.

The cuts, which will be imposed on future claimants for hearing loss disability following a review, will reinforce a protest by disability rights campaigners at a wide range of welfare issues. Lord Ashley will be one of

the key speakers at a mass lobby of Parliament next Tuesday in advance of the Budget to stop means-testing or taxing of disability benefits. "The Government's state-

ment that they will not harm people who are disabled and in need is not enough to reassure troduced to protect the paydisabled people when it is set benefit cuts which many are experiencing," said spokesman for the disability enefits consortium.

Threats to benefits the campaigners highlighted include: the benefits integrity project under which nearly one in five disabled people who have been assessed have lost or had cuts to their disability living allowance; a leaked memo from the Department of his own words."

in the short term; and cuts of £2.5bn in disability benefits inherited from the Conservative

of State for Social Security, to suspend the benefits integrity aigner, Lord Ashley, who has project as "fundamentally had an operation to help him flawed", and to set up a disinvolving disability organisations to ensure proper consultation on reform of benefits.

> The decision to cut future payments of war pension was slipped out in a written answer in the House of Lords by Baroness Hollis, the social security minister, who said that the medical review headed by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, concluded there was "no progression" of deafness after the sufferer was removed form the source of the noise - such as shellfire - which may have caused an injury to the ser-

vicemen's hearing. Special measures will be inments of the 10,000 war against a background of recent pensioners who received the additional benefits, and it will be reviewed in a year.

But the Conservative peer Lord Mackay of Ardbrechnish accused the Prime Minister of having to play politics with the disabled.

He said: "Tony Blair said that the changes we introduced were both shabby and mean-minded. Now he has been forced to eat

Tate asks Lords to return its paintings

Arts News Editor

The Tate Gallery has demanded that the House of Lords return six paintings, loaned by the gallery. The best known of the six is Landseer's Dialogue At Mi-The campaigners will call on six is Landseer's Dialogue At Wa-Harriet Harman, the Secretary terloo which hangs in the Peers' Guest Room and which was lent as long ago as 1985.

Sandy Naime, assistant director at the Tate, said the gallery opening at the end of next year of The Tate Gallery of British Art . The present Millbank site will be devoted to the history of British Art when the modern art collection moves to the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, south-east London. Mr Nairne also said that it was now Tate policy to lend paintings not on display to regional galleries and museums rather than to

the House of Lords. e House of Lords.

However, he added that the Tate had originally asked for the paintings back this year, but had agreed to a request from the Lords to extend the loan for a further year. Despite the exten-. sion, the return of the paintings led to an anxious debate in the House of Lords on Thursday. Baroness Rawlings urged that the Tate director Nicholas Serota be asked "to reconsider the matter and think of some other paintings to lend to this House".

The chairman of committees, Lord Boston of Faversham, said: "I have no doubt that a way will be found to pass on her wishes, which were echoed around this Chamber ... Mr Nicholas Serota and others ... have been

'Luckiest' MPs whose seats scoop the lottery millions

By Colin Brown

THE former Tory minister, Peter Brooke, has been officially declared the "luckiest" MP in Britain, because his constituency in the heart of London has won first place in the race for funds from the National Lottery.

London seats scooped the Commission (£10m). pool of the lottery funds, and a House of Commons library report shows the Tory seat of the Cities of London and West-Brooke's seat boosted its funds, as did £50m for the new Tate stituency," the source said. Gallery building at Bankside.

Other London seats did well

because of the predominance of "The MPs are very keen to see arts and heritage funding projects in the capital. Holborn and St Pancras, the seat of Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, came second with £133m in grants partly because it includes the British Museum (£15m) and the Countryside

The big awards for arts, milleanium and heritage projects for seats in the centre of London could work against some of the minster took first place in the smaller groups, according to rankings, with £346m. The £78m one source. "Smaller arts groups awarded to the Royal Opera may be in danger of being over-House, Covent Garden, in Mr looked because of the large £58m; 9. Islington South and sums going into this con-

how they are doing. It's the equivalent of a best-seller," an official said.

The free guide lists the oth-

er top 10 as: 3. Birmingham Ladywood (Clare Short, overseas development minister) £104m; 4. Manchester Central (Tony Lloyd, foreign minister) £103m; 5 Liverpool Riverside (Louise Ellman, Labour) £66m; 6 Belfast South (Martin Smyth UUP) £59m; 7=. Sheffield Central (Dick Caborn, minister for the regions) £58m and Kensington Finsbury (Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture) £56m; 10. The survey of all 659 seats is Portsmouth South (Mike Hanbeing eagerly studied by MPs. cock, Liberal Democrat) £55m.

lieve Iraq can deliver its bio-

logical and chemical weapons.

Otherwise it would have made

more systematic efforts to pro-

and its extermination campaign

against the Kurds, Washington

was denying that Baghdad was

manufacturing biological wea-

Pak, south-east of Baghdad,

was identified by ABC News,

which had received information

from Iraqi defectors, from a

satellite photograph it had com-

missioned, the US State De-

partment refused to credit it.

When one plant at Salman

Ironically, ten years ago at

tect its civilians in Kuwait.

Iraq's weapons not effective, America admits

By Patrick Cockburn and Charles Glass

A SENIOR American ambassador in the Middle East is reported to have told American citizens that Iraq's biological and chemical warheads were "very ineffective" just at the moment when the US and Britain were saying they posed a real threat which would justify airstrikes on Iraq.

The Independent has obtained a memo from an American businessman who attended a briefing at the US embassy in Kuwait on February 3 at which Jim Larocco, the ambassador, downplayed the threat from Iraq, although Kuwait City is the only foreign capital close to the Iraqi border.

"Gas masks are not required," the memo reports Mr Larocco to have said. "No one at the American embassy has

'No one at the US Embassy has gas masks and the

embassy does not recommend any'

ate ask

Lords to

return ig

Daintings

gas masks and the American embassy does not recommend any. They are not even inter-

"The main reasons for this decision are the new interceptor missiles in place in Kuwait and the fact [that] the biologi- to die." cal and chemical warheads are very ineffective."

This private advice on the President Clinton and Tony then only a tenth of a per cent Blair. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, writing in the Indeby the weapons was "terrifyingly

was "an extremely remote pos-

that anybody wanting a gas that the US does not really bemask get training for it. But he flathy denies saying that Iraqi warheads were ineffective. He says: "I never said anything like that at all. I'm not an ex-

Nevertheless, the memo, drawn up by an experienced American businessman, who does not want to be identified. was written immediately after the briefing. If Mr Larocco pons. and the US State Department W believed that Iraqi warheads were effective he is unlikely to have said that American citizens need not acquire gas masks.

But British experts on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction say that Mr Larocco's comments at the briefing are a better analysis of the extent of the Iraqi threat than the far more menacing picture given by President Clinton and Tony Blair.

Mr Blair, citing figures from Porton Down, the government scientific establishment which tests biological and chemical weapons, said that a teaspoon of botulinum toxin could cause seven million deaths and the same amount of anthrax 100

Dr Julian Perry-Robinson, a senior fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit and an expert on Iraqi biological and chemical weapons whose existence he helped establish in 1989, says of Mr Blair's figures: "It is a nonsense comparison. It is like sayested in finding out a source for ing 50,000 tons of bullets are enough to kill the entire world, Most larger armies have that number, but it does not mean the earth's population is going

He says the effectiveness of biological and chemical weapons depends on the ability to real extent of the danger posed deliver them and this is very unby Iraqi biological and chemi- certain in Iraq's case. For incal weapons is in sharp contrast stance, in the case of anthrax if with the picture presented by it is fired in an explosive shell of the spores will survive the explosion. The US spent twenty pendent, said the threat posed years perfecting a programme to deliver such organisms.

.At the core of the search of Mr Larocco confirms that he the UN weapons inspectors is gave several briefings to Amer- the hunt for information on how ican citizens in Kuwait in Feb- far Iraqi scientists had got in many and told them that Iraqi perfecting an effective method chemical and biological attack of delivery through an 'aerosol' device. Dr Perry-Robinson says that Mr Larocco's reported re-He said he recommended marks about warheads suggest

Innocent victims made to suffer for the sins of Saddam

m Baghdad

THE DISNEY PARK is empty and the government has for military purposes. banned the export of school textbooks - because not a single Iraqi schoolbook has been printed since 1990. Nor has a single school been built anywhere in Iraq since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, Lack of funds, is the reason it seems (though not enough to stop Sad-

Readers who wish to help the cancer-stricken children of southern Iraq can send cheques, made out to The independent Iraq Appeal, to PO Box No 6870, London EH 5BT.

dam building more palaces). The Internet is a mystery to for each spare part. So the tap Iraqi children. New computers are banned under UN sanctions; they may have a dual military purpose. So, it appears, may conton - because there ney Park, he replies: "Because are no more cotton sheets for they are all sent out to work by husquital wards - and paper, too. their families." On every street, Exercise books have run out; in children sell cigarettes, nuts, Baghdad, one young mother admitted that she tells her children claw through rubbish tips for only to write in pencil, so that resaleable goods. They are begive them back their exercise of a man called Saddam Husbooks to use again. Always sein.

supposing the children have pencils, which are subject to UN restrictions because they contain graphite, which could be used

The idea of Saddam's legions stripping the wood off school pencils to get at the graphite would be funny if the effect of UN sanctions was not so immoral. In the Basra General Hospital, children are suffering from typhoid, almost certainly from drinking water contami-

nated by sewage.

And who is to blame? Well, once we have gone through the Saddam routine - it is he, we are told, who is really being punished for his wickedness - we find that Iraqi water treatment plants are not being repaired. And why not? Because each individual item of machinery has to be manufactured specifically for the plants.

Technology that was up-todate in 1990 is now obsolete. It is becoming ever more difficult to obtain spare parts. Iraq used to build its water plants with machinery from Spain, Italy and France. And UN sanctions committee approval is needed

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water is polluted. When I ask a doctor at the Basra General Hospital why there are no children in the Dising punished, you see, because



Innocent victim: All Hillal is running out of time. After Allied bombing near his parents' home in the south of Iraq in the last days of January

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Serbs cut off killing fields of Kosovo

By Andrew Gumbel

Scrbian authorities imposed a security cordon yesterday where their special police forces have been attacking Albanian villages in Kosovo, blocking roads and intimidating or roughing up journalists and Western officials who tried to get through.

Albanian sources said fighting was continuing in at least one of the villages in the Drenica region, Prekaz, where houses were set on fire by Serb mortars, and that others were still under siege. The official death-toll from Thursday's fighting was 22, including two policemen, although Serbian police forces put the number at 30. Albanian leaders said as many as 50 had been killed.

One of the dead was named as Adem Jashari, said by the Kosovo Liberation Army, which has claimed responsibility for attacks on policemen and "col- armoured troop carriers. laborators". The Jashari family is well known for its opposition to Serb rule in Kosovo, though Albanian officials said there was no evidence he had been in-

Balkan powderkeg

Kosovo has a population of about 2 million, 90 per cent of whom are Albanian. The region was the heart of the medieval Serbian state. The battle of Kosovo of 1389, where the Ottomans defeated the Serbs, marked the end of Serbia's Independence and the start of four centuries of Turkish rule. Kosovo was

recaptured by Serbla in 1912, but by then, Serbs were only a small minority of the population. Granted autonomy by Tito's communists in 1945, the present Serbian leaer Slobodan Milosevic rose to power in 1987 on promises to re-Serbianise the region and quash independence movements among the Albanians

were sketchy and claims by zone, and saw several of the both sides almost impossible to wounded in a hospital but said verify. The Serbs claimed to they were too traumatised to have discovered underground talk. Another Red Cross group Serbs to be a commander of the arms caches and secret military was stopped near the Drenica hospitals, while the Albanians village of Glogorac and two of its members detained at the loclaimed to have captured two cal police station.

Journalists trying to reach the Drenica area were turned back at police checkpoints and some of them threatened. The Red Cross reached the town of volved in armed combat. Details Mitrovica, north of the combat

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based not on the desire to flush out terrorists but rather a crude desire for bloodshed.

After Thursday's apparently fruitless meeting in Belgrade between Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, and Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, Western diplomats continued efforts to calm the situation in Kosovo and persuade the two sides to initiate dialogue about greater autonomy for the Albanian majority in the province. Ambassadors from five of

the six Contact Group countries (Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the US and Russia) travelled to the Kosovo capital, Pristina, for talks with the selfstyled Kosovo president. Ibrahim Rugova, and Serbian officials. The Russian ambassador sent a deputy in his place.

The Italian religious community that successfully brokered an education accord between Serbs and Albanians 18 months ago also sent out a mediator, Mgr Vincenzo Paglia, to Witnesses who passed intalk to the two sides and performation out of the Drenica suade them to work out the dearea said women and children tails of the accord together so were trying to flee by road, while that it could be implemented.

The Serbs appeared to have softened their line yesterday, saying they were willing to talk about autonomy issues that stopped short of outright independence for the Albanians. Kosovo Albanian intellectuals suspected this was part of a strategy to pull a diplomatic trick, alienating the Albanians through massive use of force, offering to sit down at a negotiating table confident the Albanians will refuse, and then being able to turn round and claim they are the intransigent ones, not the Serbs.



An Albanian refugee from Prekaz with her baby in a field near the embattled village. Houses in the area were set on fire by Serb mortars and estimates of the death-toll from the clashes ranged from 22 to 50

menfolk headed into the woods.

They spoke of killings by police,

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Hindu party set to lead India

Leaders of India's Hindn nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party said. they would soon form a coalition to lead the nation. BJP leaders have been sounding confident since the bulk of vote counting in the parliamentary election ended. No party won the 273-seat majority needed to control the lower house of parliament, but the BIP was the single largest party.

Mexican's threat to Clinton

Hector Aguiniga Cortes, from Tecate, Mexico, has been arrested on charges of mailing letters in which he threatened to kill President Bill Clinton and former president George Bush unless people sent him money. He could face a maximum jail sentence of at least 25 years if convicted. — AP, San Diego

Brandenburg Gate reopens

Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, incorporated into the Berlin Wall during the three decades it divided the city, has been reopened following the fall of the Wall, but only to taxi and bus traffic.

War with Colombian rebels claims more than 100 lives

TRES ESQUINAS (Renters) Brigade had been killed while rejected rebel calls to send in - Colombia's armed forces have admitted that more than a 100 soldiers and rebels may have died in heavy fighting earlier this week

Rebel forces from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) claim they decimated a crack counterinsurgency unit in battles in the area over the past four days.

General Pern the army's second-in-command. said that "more than 100 men", including soldiers and rebels, may have died in the fighting. A senior army source said that 80 soldiers of the Third Mobile

30 had been injured and another 43 taken prisoner.

President Ernesto Samper was due to fly to the Tres Esquinas base, about a half-hour's; three decades of guerrilla war. flight from the battle-zone, to review operations on Friday. More than 1,000 troops are said to be combing the dense jungle for a 400-strong Farc force.

In a radio conversation with the Red Cross on Wednesday the Farc ambushed an army panight, Joaquin Gomez, the So- trol along an oil pipeline in viet-educated commander of south-west Narino province, the Farc's elite Southern Bloc di- killing 31 troops. More than vision said 70 soldiers had been 35,000 civilians have died in the killed. Security forces have so far civil unrest in the past decade."

Red Cross officials while fighting continues. If the army toll is as high as reported, it would be its worst defeat in more than Observers believe the rebels may be battling for positions in advance of possible peace talks with the next government, due

Aids druit price cut price W

to take office in August. The previous worst rebel

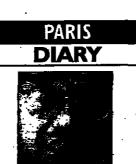
Instant chums who really take the cake

the litary of those people guaranteed seats on the Paris Metro, "soldiers mutilated in the war, pregnant women, etc", does not extend to middle-aged men carrying cakes. Not officially, anyway. Mine was no ordinary cake. It was a cake the size of a soccer goalmouth, with a matching texture and appearance, which my wife and I had baked for our daughter's fourth-birthday snack at school. Having taken the sensible decision to have no car in Paris, I was left with the problem of delivering two children and the monster cake to school through the morning rush-bour.

In London, such a journey by Tube, with such a cargo, would be unthinkable. In Paris, where the underground trains come every two minutes and are rarely jammed, I reckoned it would be tolerable.

In fact, it was delightful. I have never had such a pleasant Metro journey: people smiled (a rare event in Paris); they held open doors for me; they offered seats; they asked questions about the gateau.

It was an American-made. Betty Crocker instant-mix cake, with special instructions for cooking at high altitudes. It had fancy whirls which I had got all wrong. Maybe, since we live on the fifth floor, we should have used the highaltitude instructions. I revealed none of this to my fellow passengers; I just said it was homemade. In other countries, it is pets (Britain) or children (America, Italy) which render strangers helplessly friendly: in France, it turns out, the secret is to carry a large, mis-shapen, home-made cake.



John Lichfield

the European centreleft, real or presumed, between "Blairism" and "Josoinism" absorbs French politicians and newspapers much more than our own. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, is constantly being teased by the French centre-right for not being Tony Blair.

The French intellectual Left, having originally welcomed Le Blairisme, was pleasantly outraged to find Britain echoing and reinforcing the belligerent American line during the recent Iraqi crisis.

In truth, there are many signs that Mr Jospin is managing the economy quite well and may be more than just a Socialist dinosaur who looks vaguely like a geography teacher.

The French centre-right re-The battle for the soul of fuses to accept this. One rightwing politician and former budget minister, François d'Aubert, described Mr Jospin this week as "inblairisable": a wonderful linguistic invention, which means, roughly speaking, someone who could never be

Or, perhaps, just someone who is "imblairable".

Sunny side up: The "delightful", cake-friendly Paris Metro

I've had a chronic dry cough and sore throat. Our infant daughter has had a series of

months ago. days, my cough and sore throat French capital. disappeared. When I returned to Paris it instantly returned.

Travelling on the Metro, with or without home-made patisserie, there is generally a low grumble from the throats of the passengers: the "Paris cough" a friend calls it. Air pollution is a serious problem in all large, French conurbations - an absurd state of affairs in. such a large, empty country. A

Photograph: David Hughes

Twould be difficult to make study published earlier this the case that Paris is a year reported that 42 per cent hardship post. Consider of all emergency doctor's calls this, however. For two months, to sick children in the Paris area were for respiratory complaints. The number of children under 14 admitted to hospital minor respiratory problems, increases by half during periand one extremely serious ods of heavy atmospheric polone, since she was born four lution. There are topographical reasons - the ring of hills sur-When I left Paris last week rounding Paris - why the dirty to go into the country for three air tends to settle over the

> Both the present, and last, governments have taken steps to control emissions from cars at periods of high pollution; private cars are restricted to those with odd or even numbers, a tougher measure than any officially contemplated in Britain.

> New legislation is planned to encourage "green" cars, especially electric vehicles and those with super-efficient filters on their motors. Everyone knows, however, that a principal reason why French urban air is so poor is that France has a large proportion of diesel cars: a legacy of earlier government policy, based on the wrongful belief that they are cleaner than petrol-driven cars.

Diesel fuel is still taxed less heavily than petrol. The environment minister, and Green party leader, Dominique Voynet, has been campaigning to penalise, not encourage

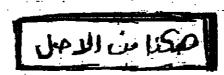
But the lobby of French car manufacturers, which is still heavily committed to diesel models, remains too strong for her. She lost the battle in cabinet last year. When she raised the issue again recently, she was apparently met by ... polite but embarrassed coughs all around.

41 SUPERSTORES MATE

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Aids drug Price cut for Third World

ly Jeremy Laurance in London and Mary Braid in Johannesburg

he price of the Aids drug, AZT, is b be cut by up to three quarters to elp prevent mother-child transaission of the disease in the develping world. Glazo Wellcome, the sultinational drug company, annunced the price cut after a trial in disease Control showed that a short ourse of the oral drug in the last tree to four weeks of pregnancy and uring labour reduced the transuission rate by 51 per cent.

A spokesman for the company aid the exact price would vary from ountry to country according to the ingth of treatment regimen agreed nd the support networks available aid the company would still make sprofit at the reduced price but part f this would be ploughed back into programme support", including cut-price solution to the Aids epiestribution and patient education.

Nine out of 10 people living with IIV and Aids are in developing ountries and women are often unware that they are infected. Most o not attend ante-natal clinics unt late in pregnancy and may only disover they are infected at that stage.

The announcement was warmly received in South Africa. "It is abplutely amazing," said Glenda Gray, irector of perinatal HIV research the Baragwanath Hospital in oweto yesterday. "For the first me in years we are seeing lights at ne end of the tunnel. Glaxo's deciion has put AZT within the reach f South African women."

It is two weeks since Dr Gray anounced that research at Barag- research team, is worried by the ranath supported the results of the hai study. But the Baragwanath eam's joy was marred by the frank rather guarded. Two years ago Dr dmission that the drug, widely realiable in the developed world, vould be too expensive for of in-

ected women in South Africa. South Africa has one of the astest-prowing HIV infection rates cheaply does the company intend to on a continent blighted by the virus. sell AZT and for how long will it Roughly 30 per cent of children un-

der five referred to Baragwaneth, just outside Johannesburg, test positive. In KwaZuhi-Natal, 25 per cent of all new born babies have the virus. KwaZulu is the hardest-struck province but the rest of the country is only a few years behind. Social factors smoothed the viruses passage.

Migrant-labour practices keep men from their families for months hailand run by the US Centre for on end and on a continient where women have few if any choices, prostitution is rife and condom use practically non-existent. KwaZuln's predicament is partly blamed on truck routes that pass down the province, bringing the virus from neighbouring countries further north. At truck stops along the way, prostitutes cost less than breakfast.

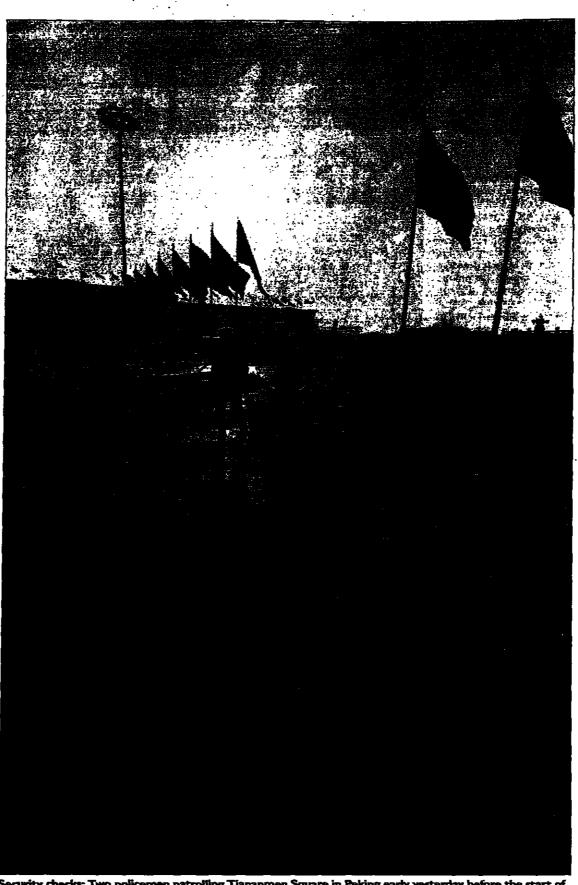
The virus has crept up on South b ensure effective use of the drug, Africa's first democratic governthose brand name is Retrovir. He ment; and administration which had so many other post-apartheid problems to tackle. That health minister Nkosazana Zuma is desperate for a demic is evident from the government's continued support for the home-grown drug Virodene.

Though the Virodene researchers broke all the rules in administering. the drug to Aids patients before it had been scientifically tested Dr Zuma continues to champion their cause. Her enthusiasm has not been dampened by the banning of the drug which contains industrial solvent.

The government's desperation is matched by patients. Yesterday there were newspaper reports that Virodene, despite the ban, is still in circulation and there is no shortage of Aids sufferers willing to use it. Some sound a cautious note. Dr

James McIntyre, co-director of the vagueness of Glaxo's proposal. A Health Department spokesman was Zuma met Glaxo executives to discuss purchasing AZT at a reduced price. The health spokesman said the questions the health minister posed keep the price at that level?

Cadres fall victim to bureaucratic revolution



Security checks: Two policemen patrolling Tiananmen Square in Peking early yesterday before the start of ments under the State Council. gravy train is finally heading the second session of the Chinese National People's Congress which is being held nearby

China is to slash its bloated civil service in the biggest government reshuffle since 1949, writes Teresa Poole in Peking

ALMOST 50 years ago, a victorious Communist Party took control of China and resolved to eliminate the landlord class. Yesterday, party leaders proclaimed a new "revolution", this one aimed at the millions of idle, tea-swilling, newspaperreading civil servants whose dedication to red-tape is matched only by their ingenuity at banqueting on government funds.

In a move to strike fear in the hearts of card-carrying cadres, the number of civil servants on the books of the central government ministries is to be halved by the end of this year. That is only a start. By the end of next year, provincial and lower-level local governments must come up with re-organisation plans that will mean millions more cadres stepping out into the real world.

China's bloated and bureaucratic civil service, and its trunk-loads of regulations, are the bane of life for anyone trying to get anything done in that country.

Luo Gan, a member of the State Council (China's Cabinet), admitted as much yesterday when he announced the biggest reorganisation of government since 1949.

"There is a serious problem of too many people doing too little work, causing red tape and bureaucracy, and at the same time helping corruption, embezziement and bad social tendencies grow," he said.

Central and local governbecome "rice-eating budgets", he told this year's National People's Coogress.

Mr Luo gave no numbers, but the Chinese media said the ious sectors including banking, number of civil servants would be cut from 8 million to 4 million. The size of government was "too heavy and too complicated", said Mr Luo.

The first stage of reor Photograph: AP Some 15 ministries and com- into the sidings.

missions will be disbanded and four "super-ministries" established, with the result that the total number of ministries falls from 40 to 29. The total number of civil servants in these organisations under the State Council, including in their provincial branches, will be

halved. "It's a revolution," said Mr Luo. But he warned that "reforms cannot proceed without resistance and risks. However, there is no way out if we do not

will be hived off from government departments, and state subsidies to non-administrative units will be phased out over three years.

The biggest risk is what to do with the cadres, or the "treasures of the state", as Mr Luo called them. He said the "re-

Too many people are doing too little work, causing red tape and helping corruption'

duction of government size and fixing of staff" would be completed by the end of this year, but it would take three years "to channel" cadres into re-training schemes and new roles.

He stressed that the ment budgets had almost unwanted cadres would keep their salaries during the threeyear "channelling" period, and after training they would be able to play "a full role" in varcommerce and taxation departments.

However, with unemployment already soaring because of lay-offs among state enterprise workers, many of the civsation will sort out the depart- il servants must know that the



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Russian Jews threaten action over race attack

in Muscow

IMAGINE outrage had it happened, say, in Western Europe: the head of a territory about the size of Scotland, with three international airports and a cap-

addressing local youngsters. Far from giving harmless career advice, he launches into a diatribe in which he makes 61 brazenly anti-Semitic remarks. He talks of "yids" and "cosmopolitans", the Stalinist slur against Jews. He accuses Jews of inventing homosexuality, of starting the Chechen war, and of plotting to destroy Russia, his country. "They have penetrated the Russian family." he raves, "A Jewish girl would seduce a Russian boy so that the children would belong to them". Anti-Semitism is depressingly common in Russia, but this was of a different order.

The speaker, Nikolai Kondratenko, was no lesser figure than governor of Krasnodar, one of Russia's top 10 best-performing regions. Five million people live under his rule on a sweep of farmland on the northeastern edge of the Black Sca. He is closely allied to the Communists and nationalists who dominate the Russian parliament under Gennady Zyuganov. And he is an out-and-out racist.

Such was the outrage among Russia's Jews when his speech

of Izvestia on Wednesday that to determine whether to resort lop Jewish organisations are to the courts. now considering taking the governor to court, using a clause in the new Criminal Code that outlaws inciting racial hatred.

If they go ahead, it will be a landmark, a measure of the disital bigger than Liverpool, is tance Russian Jews have come since the Communist years which brought Stalin's purges, religious persecution, official discrimination, and finally, as the system fell apart, mass emigration.

No leading official has ever



Gennady Zyuganov: An ally of the racist governor

been sued for anti-Semitic conduct in Boris Yeltsin's Russia. "The Communist Party is still the umbrella for these kind of guys," said Dr Michael Chlenov, head of the Jewish Federa-

When the article appeared he was inundated with angry phone calls; he is now awaiting a transcript which will be used

For Russia's 1 million Jews, the governor's speech was a nasty backward glimpse after a decade which has seen their fortunes rise. Moscow now has seven Jewish schools, and four higher education institutions. There are Sunday schools, kindergartens and more than 20 welfare organisations. "Ten years ago there was simply nothing, apart from semi-legal circles of refuseniks," said Dr Chlenov.

Religious traditions have begun to blossom anew. So, too, has culture. In January, The Diary of Anne Frank was performed in Moscow for the first time since the Khrushchev thaw. It was part of a festival held in memory of the renowned Jewish actor and theatre director. Solomon Mikhoels, who was murdered by Stalin's secret police.

Since his election in 1996, Mr Kondratenko – backed by Cossacks and nationalists - has adopted a charter declaring his region a "place of residence of Russian people". The human rights group Memorial has warned official racism could lead to "catastrophic consequences". The US-based Centre for Human Rights Advocacy claims he has a force of 300,000 Cossack troops which set up road blocks and raid homes and markets in a reign of terror aimed at driving out non-ethnic



Flashback: The discovery of the body of Aldo Moro, the former Italian prime minister killed by the Red Brigades in 1978. He was one of many victims of the turmoil gripping Italy at the time and which also included Dario Fo and his wife, Franca Rame (below)

Dario Fo looks back in anger on era when Italy's rulers had his wife beaten and raped

Franca Rame - the Italian actress and wife of the playwright Dario Fo - to start talking about the day in 1973 when she was snatched by neo-fascists in broad daylight and gang-raped in the streets of Milan.

And it has taken 25 years for the horrific reasons behind the attack to come to public attention. An investigating magistrate still working on the terrorist outrages of the period has just revealed what the Fos suspected all along: the gang-rape was carried out on the orders of senior police officers infuriated by the couple's constant digs at the es-

tablishment, on stage and off. The full story may not end there. New testimony suggests the commander of the Carabinieri's Pastrengo division in Milan was taking orders from the upper echelons of government, the idea being to deliver a blow against a left-wing movement that was organising protests against the ruling Chris-

tian Democrats almost daily. "I remember the day [of the rapel very well. The commander was ecstatic," a captain in the Pastrengo division at the time, Niccolo Bozzo, said. "The news that Franca Rame had been raped was received as

IT TOOK nearly five years for The Nobel laureate is demanding that the state apologises for conniving at the trauma of his partner, Franca Rame, writes

> though someone had done the division a great favour."

Andrew Gumbel

Similar testimony has come from a number of former neofascist thugs, who say they frequently joined forces with the Pastrengo division's commander, Giovanni Battista Palumbo, to beat off what they saw as Italy's fascists did the Carabinieri's dirty work and were guaranteed a blind eye to their activities. A former neo-fascist since caught up in drugs rackets, Biagio Pitarresi, says he was approached about carrying out the rape but

turned Gen Palumbo down. In the early 1970s Milan and indeed the whole country appeared to be on the brink of civil war. Barely a day went by without bombs, or street fights between left-wingers and neofascists. A rightist terrorist campaign was in full flight, and the far-left Red Brigades were beginning their remorselessly violent backlash.

The left suspected - with justification, it turned out - that the

government, backed by the CIA, was prepared to use any means to prevent the Communist Party from reaching power and had given tacit approval to terrorist outrages such as the bombing of a bank in Milan's Piazza Fontana in 1969 as an excuse to swoop on left-wing activists and toss them in jail.

Since the police and army had never been properly purged after the Fascist period, it was easy to find commanders in the security forces willing to bend the rules in the name of Cold War ideology. For many law officers, beating and torturing left-wingers was a pleasure.

The Fos were actively engaged in lampooning the political corruption and police brutality of the time. Plays by Fo like Accidental Death of an Anarchist (about the "suicide" of a suspect in the Piazza Fontana bombing while in police custody) so incensed the establishment that theatres daring to show them routinely had their licences withdrawn.

Rame organised a volunteer group which sent packages of food and clothing to leftwingers in custody and provid-

ed defence lawvers for suspects.

So reviled by polite society were the Fos that they could not find a landlord in Milan willing to rent them an apartment. Their phones were tapped and their home bugged. Fo was arheld for 19 hours but otherwise they stayed out of trouble.

when Franca Rame had a pistol shoved into the back of her neck, was bundled into a military truck, beaten, cut with razor blades, burned with ing the truth was not a matter cigarette butts and gang-raped. "I'm not sure how many they. were, though they must have to recognise the barbarities of been at least five, one at the wheel, one holding me down and the other three on top of me," she told La Repubblica recently in what she vowed would be her last public telling of the rest of us who have undergone affair. "When they threw me out

everywhere ... They told me: 'If you talk, we'll kill you'."

Rame was so traumatised that she did not talk to anyone about it for years. In 1975 she managed to tell her husband about the attack, but only on paper, not verbally. Three years later she surprised everyone including herself - by describing it all in minute detail during a one-woman show in Lucca. It was so powerful that several young women fainted and Rame herself was taken ill.

Once the Cold War ended, the old Christian Democrat order collapsed and the major figures implicated in the gang-rape were dead or politically finished (Gen Palumbo died in 1984), it became easier to discern the chain of responsibility.

Judge Salvini's most recent discoveries have prompted Dario Fo, basking in the prestige of his recent Nobel Prize for Literature, to write to the President demanding justice, even Until the day in March 1973 at this late stage. "How is it possible that nobody wanted to investigate until the statute of limitations for these crimes had expired?" he wrote. Establishof revenge, he added, but an essential tool to allow Italians the past and move on. "Otherwise the guilty will feel that this country's institutions, and you first of all. Mr President, are there to protect 'them', not the things that no human being near the park, my clothes were should have to endure."

Belgians hold 8 Algerians in crackdown on terror groups

By Katherine Butler

ARMED Islamic extremists are using Belgium as their main logistical back up station for terrorist activities in Algeria, state efforts to combat Algerian tersecurity sources in Brussels rorism. But Belgian security admitted yesterday.

Police carried out further raids on houses in the capital and in Verviers in southern Belgium following a siege on Thursday which ended in the believed to be leading members of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group. The swoop was the culmination of months of surveil-

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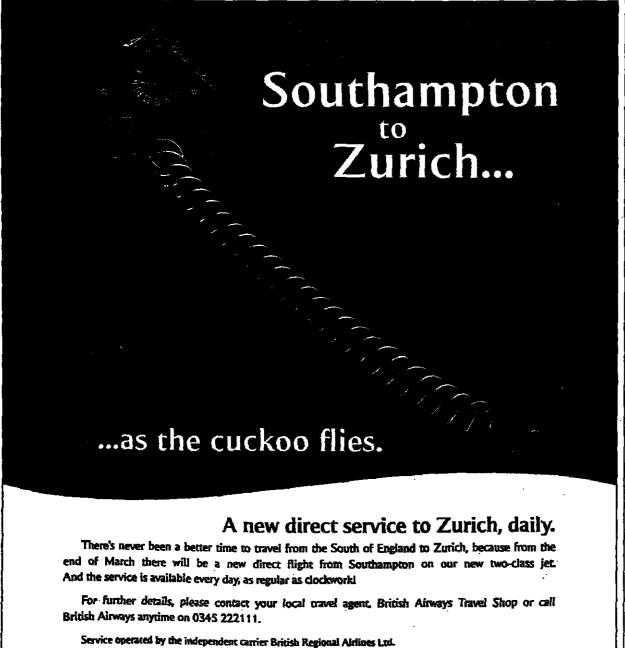
lance and followed intelligence set up in Belgium shortly before from British police and immi-

Belgium's interior minister, Johan Vande Lanotte, hailed the arrests as a breakthrough in service sources, quoted in yescountry is being used as an im-

portant "support network". As well as a clearing house for weapons, Belgium is thought ufacture of fake identity papers, money laundering and fundraisthese clandestine networks were

the Paris bombings of 1995. Belgium's proximity to northern France where a number of suspected Islamic networks are established is a key factor. Thursday's 11-hour siege

ended in the arrest of Farid Melouk, described by the terday's newspapers, said the French authorities as a leading terrorist, Melouk who was sentenced to eight years in prison by a French court in his absence last week, surrendered after a arrest of eight Algerians to be a key point for the man-shoot-out which left him seriously wounded. A special police unit stormed a house in central ing. French officials believe Brussels at dawn on Thursday



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furnished. The single-sitting dinning

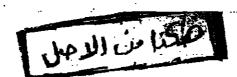
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What's Harry's game?

One of the most famous journalists in the world claims he has been libelled by a humble hack. Ann Treneman

says the great man should lighten up

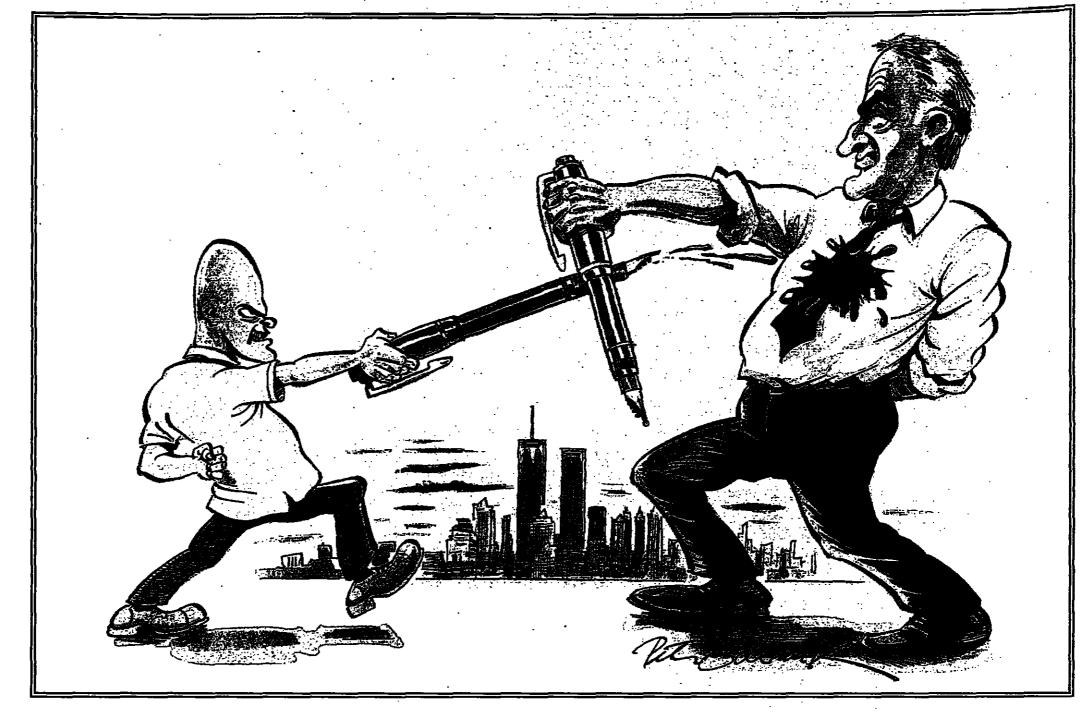
TO SAY that Harry Evans is highly respected among British hacks is not true. Nor would it be accurate to say that the man who edited the Sunday Times in the Seventies is seen as merely brilliant. He is, quite simply, an icon. And the great thing about being an icon is that your status is pretty secure.

Never mind that, in New York, the great man has to live in the shadow of his magazine editor whizz of a wife. In London, he can escape from all that Mr Tina Brown stuff. When he arrives here in newspaper offices (as icons sometimes do) editors have been known to bow. "There goes the best editor this paper never had," they say as he sweeps out.

The thing about being an icon, though, is that you must act like one. Harry Evans used to be good at this. Notice the use of the past tense, for it seems that the great defender of liberal auses has lost the script. He has become that saddest of things: a journalist who thinks he has been libelled and who thinks that the answer to criticism is to gag. Is this any way for a defender of free speech to behave?

Even worse, the man who has driven Harry to this is hardly a giant on the international stage. He is freelance writer Toby Young, known in Britain for founding the Modern Review with Julie Burchill and, when it all went sour, for hating her publicly. But he barely registered on the Manhattan media circuit. Until now.

Last November he wrote a relatively small article in the relatively small circulation Spectator, entitled "Harry in a Spin". In it he claimed that Harry had been pushed out of his New York job as head of Random House publishing and speculated as to whether Queen Tina might lose her crown as well. She might have made a success set in New York's medialand.



out of Vanity Fair, but she had not repeated her magic on the august New Yorker. After five years the magazine was still not in profit and the rumour mill was working overtime. None of this makes for pleasant reading and it may be untrue - but, as these things go, it's hardly

even spiteful. Weeks went by and things continued as they should in the appeared in a New York paper saying that Toby Young was writing a satirical play - called Liberté, Egalité, Publicité -

Its central characters were not wholly unrelated to Harry and

The next day the Speciator received a letter demanding a retraction of the November article. "Toby Young seems to be making a cottage industry out of denigrating me," wrote Evans. "I have ignored this campaign to date, but the article you publish is such an court of Harry and Tina. Then, escalation, so malicious, so Toby Young a "journalistic own publicity, He acts like a miin January, a small gossip item untrue, that I cannot let it stalker". "He is obsessed with

> Not surprisingly, all of New York was suddenly interested in reading this terrible article. The Spectator and Mr Young

were the talk of the town. But Mr Evans doesn't stop there. When the Spectator refused to act, his lawyers wrote directly to Toby Young, demanding that he apologise, pay legal fees and "desist forthwith from further defaming, denigrating and ridi-

He says not. But he does call me and my wife. I hope this doesn't sound too pompous but I care about standards in iournalism." This is sick-bag stuff. What makes it worse is

culing Mr Evans and his wife".

Was Harry trying to stop the

that the words "standards in journalism" are something that Harry did know a huge amount about. He is the man, after all, who fought the Thalidomide campaign and countless others. Now, it seems, he is his own .

I can't imagine that he expected Toby Young to apologise, and he certainly hasn't. "Harry has started to believe his nor member of the Royal Family. I am not one of his New York sycophants, I am not afraid to criticise him." And, perhaps most wounding of all: "Harry and Tina are behaving

like a couple of Scientologists." Two things occur. One is that Harry has become truly American and lost his sense of humour. He definitely used to have one. In the (now infamous) Speciator article, Toby Young notes that Harry Evans has said that he often feels like the husband in the New

Yorker cartoon whose wife whispered to him at a cocktail party: "Tell him who you were. Henry. Tell him who you were." It's a good joke to tell against yourself, but perhaps Harry no longer can see the point of such things.

The other thing to note is

that Harry has simply not done his homework. After all, Toby Young does his best fighting in print. Earlier this year, Julie Burchill, in her autobiography, accused him of being "bald, bilious and paying for sex".

He responded in kind in a review: "Reading this gibberish, I am reminded of the late-period Elvis Presley. Just as Elvis was washed up at 40, Julie is humt out at 38

"Like Elvis in his rhinestone-encrusted, splitting-atthe-seams, white suit phase, she has become a grotesque paroweight and out of touch. Elvis

was found dead of a drug overdose on his bathroom floor at the age of 42. I wonder if Julie will last that long."

Give it up, Harry! You simply aren't up to this level of vitriol. And if you won't take my word for it, listen to yourself earlier this week. "Toby Young has played this one brilliantly." you told a journalist. "He has generated a lot of publicity for himself and his play.

True but not entirely accuand not Toby Young - who generated all that publicity. It's the dy of her former self, over- kind of thing an icon should

The instant family that fell apart

Adopting children with deep emotional scars can lead to serious problems in adolescence. Michael Delahaye reports

ANNE AND JOHN EASSON are both teachers - and that's significant. Eleven years ago, when they adopted an "instant family" of three sisters, aged two, three and five, their professional experience must have counted greatly with the adoption panel. Today the Eassons' large Victorian

house in Feltham, West London, is "a war zone" - John's words - and bears all the marks of combat. He points to the heavy pine door leading into the living-room: "One of the girls was threatening the youngest and, when she took refuge behind the door here. she pulled the door off its hinges ... straight out of the door-post." On several occasions the police have been called in.

4

Upstairs on the landing. John produces a bunch of keys. They are all for internal doors - one for the parents' bedroom and one each for the girls' bedrooms. Each of them (Samira, now aged 16, Disa, 14, and Shirin, 16) has her own key, to stop them stealing from each other and sparking off more rows, more broken glass, more kicked-in door panels.

John and Anne no longer have a social life. They say they can't leave the girls alone for fear of the consequences. As for family visits to friends and relatives. Anne says it's just too embarrassing. "If you go to other houses and there's cash sitting there, you have to say. 'Please move it'."

The Eassons' problems are clearly not normal. But nor are they unique, the common key is adoption and what happened in the Seventies and Eighties when the practice started of placing older, often emotionally-ordised children with new parents. It was done for the best of motives: to give every child, no matter what his or her "history", the chance of a new beginning with sons'. He compares what is now emerging





Anne and John Eason with their daughters shortly after adoption (left) and the girls as they are today

a new family. It was - and still is - carried out with almost evangelical zeal.

But such children, it is only now emerging, often have what are known as "attachment" problems. Because they fail to bond with their birth parents (often due to neglect or abuse), they never create the vital internal model on which to base future relationships. Once they are in care, this deficiency may be compounded by the experience of being moved from one residential home or foster parent to another.

The result is a form of survival mechanism: they trust no-one and try to control everything and everybody. Lying, stealing and hysterical anger are part of the package. And, instead of growing out of such behaviour, they more often grow into it.

"The damage and disturbance caused by those first few years," says David Howe, Professor of Social Work at the University of East Anglia, "can ricochet throughout the rest of your life. Even though family life is wonderful, positive and warm, you don't recover totally." Professor Howc, the author of Patterns of Adoption, estimates that several thousand families in Britain could be facing problems similar to the Eas-

to other social phenomena that were once dismissed as isolated aberrations: "It's like dyslexia and domestic violence. Twenty or 30 years ago, people had their suspicions but the scale of it was unknown."

The failure to recognise a common cause can mean that the adoptive parents continue to struggle on in ignorance and frustration, blaming themselves. They feel a particular sense of failure because, after all, they were thoroughly vetted before being allowed to adopt. The cruellest twist is the advice frequently given at the time of adoption that "a loving and stable home will compensate for the rockiest start in life."

Traumatised children can often traumatise an entire family. One mother who was finally forced to throw out her adopted son described her family's experience "as if a hand-grenade had been tossed into our midst. Even now, four years since he left, we're still picking out bits of emotional shrapnel." Her marriage - as frequently happens - buckled under the strain.

The difficulty that these families face is that attachment problems, in their full-blown form, often emerge only when the children hit adolescence - which can be five or even 10 years after adoption. By then, the local authority which placed the child will, understandably, feel that its obligation to provide post-adoption support has long passed.

John recalls that, when they were vetted as an adoptive couple, he and Anne were asked whether they were the sort of people who would ask for help if they hit problems. But when you do ask, he says, "The instant reaction is: 'well, you must have done something to have caused this; you're the cause of the problem.' And in that situation where you're already down and depressed and feeling defeated, that's the last thing you need."

But the saddest casualties are the children themselves. An insight into the depth of their emotional confusion comes from the Easson's middle daughter, Disa, After several periods of exclusion from school, she is now splitting her time between school and a special adolescent unit for "behavioural modification". Asked what she wanted to say to her parents, she replied: "I don't mean to be angry with them. They've not done anything wrong. They didn't have to adopt us - and I do love them for adopting us and caring for us."

Michael Delahaye reports for BBC2's First Sight, 7.30pm, 12 March.

If you're not past your sell-by date, maybe you're entering the Fourth Age

ALL would live long but none would be old said Benjamin Franklin in 1741. As the 20th Century draws to a close, life expectancy has certainly increased, but

no-one likes to think of themselves as old. And how old is old these days? Is a 45-year-old woman "past her sell-by date" as the Pennell Initiative, a pressure group set up to help older women, yesterday accused doctors of thinking? If so, how do you account for Elizabeth Buttle, who recently gave birth aged 60? When should a man retire? Warren Beatty and Robert Redford have hung on to their heart-throb status, despite being over 60. Does active life end at 65? John Glenn certainly doesn't think so. He plans to orbit the earth in October - at the age of 77. Society is marching forward, extending the age at which we do things.

This week the Debate of the Age was launched, with a commitment to ask 30 million people how they feel society should be managed in future with substantially fewer young people and substantially more older ones. The organisers of the debate have set it up knowing that demographic change in the next century is such that we have to revise all our perceptions of what we call age.

Had you been born in 1841, you could expect to live to 40 if you were a man, and 42 if you were a woman, so even 39 would have seemed old. By 1950, this had risen to 66 years and 71.5 years respectively. Male babies born in 1993 can look forward to 73.8 years of life and females 79.1.

Longevity has much to do with the fact that we are all healthier - but some are healthier than others. "The difference is in socio-economic class," says David James, professor of focto-maternal medicine at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. "You can have a 40-year-old who acts 60 and vice versa, but it depends on socio-economic background - if you're well off you're better nourished, healthier and less likely to smoke."

Many women, like the actress Patricia Hodge, are waiting until their forties before starting a family, despite the conventional "older mothers" being defined as a sprightly 35-plus. One of the biggest tolls on women's health, frequent childbearing, has almost ceased, thanks to the Pill and the decision to have children lat-

"The menopause is simply a phenomenon of this century," adds Professor James. "Women simply didn't live long enough to go through it 100 years ago."

But Dr Kevin Morgan, senior lecturer in gerontology at the University of Sheffield, argues that cultural changes have been just as important as biological ones. The difference is in what we do.

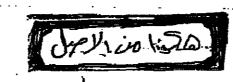
GLENDA COOPER.

not what we are. "In the past we used to measure age by whether we were too old or too young to do things. It was a social

construct, but an elastic measurement". "There are so many positive role models of empowerment - such as John Gleon or Barbara Castle - that people feel there aren't just obligations but options."

Simon Knighton, director of the Dcbate of the Age, says: "Our attitudes need to change. There are going to be more old people and there are going to be more opportunities. The end of life debate is going to be as important as the pro-life debates of the 1960s and 1970s.

"We used to talk about the Third Age. Now we are thinking about the Fourth Age. To say what is old age is a meaningless statement." Or as the American statesman Bernard Baruch put it: Old age is always 15 years older than you are.



The Capeman crashes

It had a charismatic star, innovative sets and a big-name composer. But there was plenty wrong with Paul Simon's first Broadway musical, says Phil Johnson

AFTER a short but stormy Capeman's wings will flap no When I saw the show in preview more. It has been announced at the beginning of January, paymusical is to close on 28 March it was evident that there was an already on its fourth director.

vador Agron, who died shortly after his release from prison in 1979), and struggling against pected to enjoy a long life. Simon, who wrote both book, lyrics and music (with Nobel Prize-winning poet Derek Walsaying: "What I enjoyed most does not really have much to do. about the experience, apart from the creative process itself, anti-racism, Simon paints a Latino audience responded to of Puerto Rican life. The island

get it right first time in a milieu where shortcomings simply aren't tolerated. The role of it, is fudged. Walcott - who has 40 years' experience with the Trinidad safe to say, was Simon's baby

But was it any good? Well, flight full of turbulence, the yes and no, but mainly no. that Paul Simon's Broadway ing my \$67 for a seat in the stalls. after a run of just two months awful lot wrong. The story itself and 68 post-preview perfor- - Puerto Rican teenager Agron mances. Despite opening only at kills two white youths in a gangthe end of January, the show - fight in New York, goes to which cost £6.8m to present - is prison, comes out again and dies - was made to carry an un-Savaged by the critics, bearable weight of mythic sigtargeted by Victims' Rights nificance. Agron is a catholic campaigners angry at what they saint-figure, he's a victim of saw as the martyr status Simon racism, he's Christ himself. As gave to the show's murderer- played by the salsa singer hero (the real-life figure of Sal-Ruben Blades, who gave a striking performance full of bruised nobility, Agron does live and breath on the stage. But by splitsevere internal problems, The ting the central role between Capeman was not, in truth, ex- Blades and Marc Anthony who plays the younger Agron -Simon cuts in half the potential power of the character from the start. It's fair to say that Ancott getting a co-credit for the thony does not have the charisfirst two) has been quoted as ma of Blades, and that Blades

For all the show's admirable was the intensity with which the drippingly sentimental picture is a green paradise, Agron's There is, however, a strong mother is a saint, the zoot-suit-element of hubris involved. Si- ed gang Agron joins in New mon brought his show straight York to become the Capeman into Broadway and suffered are poor, misunderstood youngthe consequences of trying to sters, and it's fair to say that the climactic moment of the murder itself, and responsibility for

But surely Simon must have got the music right? Well, some Theatre Workshop - was also of it is fine, at least compared unclear. The Capeman, it is to the lamentable standard of contemporary Broadway and there are some lovely numbers full of complex, poetic lyrics, but his own.



Down on their luck: Renoly Santiago and Marc Anthony in 'The Capernan', to close after just two months on stage

Photograph: Joan Marcus

every time a new number starts Sole of My Shoes" only to find that what you actually get is a sound the same, just like an awful lot of the singers sound just like Simon, the cast echoing his sweet-voiced intonation. Only Ruben Blades makes the music

Where the show fails more you tend to begin tapping your than anything, however, at least feet to, say, "Diamonds On the when I saw it under the direction of Mark Morris, was the lack of a basic grasp of how to less successful derivative. And move a large cast convincingly an awful lot of the songs do around the stage. This was hard to believe from a MacArthur Prize-winning choreographer but the big musical numbers repeatedly failed to energise either the performers or the

The sets by the British designer Bob Crowley were often in the story itself, they began to have a reductive effect. As another fitted kitchen came sliding out of the wings to represent other deliciously skewed perspective rendering of a the background, one grew less

shortcomings, the show still wonderful, but given the holes somebow had the power to

move you, especially at its close. Increasingly disenchanted after his release from prison, and more and more hangdog of the mother's apartment, and an-expression, the older Agron goes back to his mother's apartment, switches on the television tenement stairwell fitted into and then dies. There's no big musical number, no moving death-song, no final dance-ac-

Despite this catalogue of tion. He just snuffs it, quietly in production with 10 actors and

The Capeman may now have sense of adventure that it was in the first place. meant to bring to Broadway, poignant sense of humanism vain. A small-scale workshop something.

his sleep. And then you cry.

a four-piece band might be its next incarnation. Which is died too, and with it some of the maybe what it should have been

If not, there's got to be a role but, if few remember Ruben for Art Garfunkel in there Blades' performance and the somewhere. Re-title the show brave, foolhardy but sometimes Bright Eyes, get in some gigantic fluffy rabbits like the animals in and social concern that Simon The Jungle Book and, hey I intended, it wasn't entirely in think we might just be on to

Lydian modes and all that jazz

Phil Johnson meets George Russell, the man who taught Miles Davis his scales

composer George Russell once is that he learnt about modes wrote a book that few people have from Bill Evans and that Bill actually read but which attained learnt from George. Even Bill yond its limited circulation. The er admitted to studying with me, Lydian Concept of Tonal Organisation (1953) didn't have a catchy book and was very into it." title but it changed for ever the way

but in practice it's as clear as day. - he has, at 74, reached a sort of Miles Davis's 1959 album, Kind affable equanimity. "That's kind of Blue - for many, the best jazz of how it goes," he says when we mous application of the method: a professor at the New England John Coltrane's A Love Supreme Conservatory of Music since 1969. of 1964 is another. The modal muin there somewhere, even if, like main thing is that I know that, Martin Luther's little primer, almost no one involved had read it.

but friends said he had read the

If Russell feets ignored by hisnew method of improvising on he is one of the most important scales or modes instead of chords. US composers of the century, record ever made - is the most fa- meet in Boston, where he has been "Whereas at one time I might have sic of the 1960s that Davis and felt left out because I didn't have Coltrane inspired became what a hand like Ellington's that perwe now know as modern jazz. If formed 364 days a year, 1 now it was modern, Russell's book was know that was a blessing. The

when I want to perform, I can." The big band with whom Rus-Once the idea caught on, sell plays the Burbican tonight, the though, it was as if it was part of Living Time Orchestra, has been the air people breathed and Rus- going for 14 years. Consisting sell didn't receive much credit for largely of British musicians like his authorship. "It's on the liner star saxophonist Andy Sheppard.

LIKE some venerable Renais- was influenced by me," says Rus- standards and Russell's music re- for Russell because he was part sance scholar, the Ohio-born jazz sell, "but the most he would say ally is a glory to hear. Although melodically and harmonically complex, the band's sound is bold and explosive and, in full flight, alan importance that went far be- who was a very close friend - new- most unbelievably powerful. In essence it's the sound of mid-century urban America in all its convulsive energy, but beefed up by rock rhythms and high-tech keyjazz-musicians played, creating a tory - and he has a right to, for board voicings into a completely contemporary ensemble. Conducting from the front with a great The theory might be obscure whether you count the book or not sense of showmanship, Russell has even been known to rap a little. It is, in short, the very opposite of the now-dominant retro-aesthet-

> nimity - completely loses his cool. "This virtual jazz, cloned jazz, is such a dead idea. The concept that, after 1950, all jazz is bunk! I can understand the social rea-KO'd jazz, and jazz couldn't get up off the floor - even Miles was playing to only 400 people. And then along comes Wynton, with this idea that the real jazz all happened before 1950, and he doesn't help the situation at all!"

which Russell - for all his equa-

notes of Kind of Blue that Miles it's an incredible group by any jazz history is particularly irksome 638 8891).

of the great movement of modemism which Marsalis appears to . deny. As for his great theory - the Lydian concept - "There's no way you can't use it," he says. "You're in it whether you know it or not. I was reluctant about putting the book out again in this restrictive and fascist climate, and I took it off the market for eight or nine vears for revisions, but something tells me the time is now right. I've finished revising the first volume and it's just awaiting typesetting."

If he senses a change in the wind, it comes from an unusual ic of Wynton Marsalis, about direction. "There's every evidence that black people don't monopolise rhythmic intelligence," he says. "Go and see Riverdance, for example. I don't know where it came from but, boy, you can't say those people don't have sons for it - rock had just about rhythm. It's so refreshing to see that, because it just blows a hole in everything. As Marsalis would preach: it shows that all God's children got rhythm regardless of race, creed or colour!"

George Russell: 7.30pm tonight, Marsalis's revisionist spin on at the Barbican, London (0171-



George Russell: theoretically speaking Photograph: Guy Le Querrec/Magnum

THE WEEK ON RADIO **ROBERT HANKS**

thing short of mass suicides was some uncritical adulation

involved. Or I'd settle for cash. One reason for switching on that Douglas Adams might have some ideas to share on how to go about creating a cult. The other reason was sheer nostalgia for and acres of repetition, still sounds astonishingly sharp, fresh ed to look dated even as it hit the nova beat"). screen, Paddy Kingsland's elec-

of ambition and inventiveness. Adams didn't have any hints, of course, just a few remarks that swung between blushing self-regard and self-centred modesty ("Sometimes", he said at one point, "it's hell being me"). If one theme did emerge, it was how infinitely improbable it was that the series was ever made at all. Not only was there Adams's own dilatoriness to cope with (on occa-

A CULT would be all right. I sion he didn't finish a script uncould handle being a cult: liv- til the actors had all gone bome), ing hearts torn out of beautiful there was also the BBC's mulyoung virgins, students whipping ish bureaucracy: it was taken as each other into hysteria re- gospel, for instance, that no peating my catch-phrases - any- comedy could be recorded in stereo, since the listener would would be OK, as long as there not know from which speaker to expect the punchline.

If you have any doubts about the influence of Hitch-Hiker, The Guide to 30 Years' Hitch-Hik- though, try Paradise Lost in Cving (R4, Thursday) was the hope berspace (R4, Tuesday). It is tempting to put this futureshock comedy down as one of the BBC's current splurge of rehashed old ideas. But Colin the original radio version of Swash's take-off of Logan's The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Run is full of ingenious ideas Galaxy, which, after two decades and witty, mildly unnerving extensions of present-day logic (such as a vision of the BBC in and funny. Where the comput- the 31st century "broadcasting er graphics of the TV series start-round-the-clock news to a bassa

All the same, it clearly could tronic sound-world retains its air not have existed without Huch-Hiker's Guide, as the casting of Stephen Moore (Marvin, the Paranoid Android) and Geoffrey McGivern (Ford Prefect) tacitly acknowledges. That's the trouble with the modern BBC: a programme can be sold as "another Hitch-Hiker's Guide"; but as for a real Hitch-Hiker's Guide, a programme without any precedent - well, "infinitely improbabic" starts to sound optimistic.

9.524

from Easy Rider to Ulee's Gold 語 Barbican Centre

Time alone cannot always tell

CONCERT REVIEW

Towards the Millennium: The Seventies A Child of Our Time RFH, SBC, London

Thematic concert programming is a risky business. Sometimes you end up with something truly enlightening; more often. the works in question stubchosen theme. Thursday's Royal Festival Hall concert in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's marathon Towards British orchestral works from the 1970s; the late Sir Michael

Tippett's Fourth Symphony, Oliver Knussen's Third and umph of Time - and there's your theme, "The Seventies".

Well, you can, if you wish, find distinctively Seventies elements in all three works, but that's hardly what makes them interesting. The half-dehumanised cry of the amplified soprano saxophone in The bornly refuse to illuminate the Triumph of Time, piercing the metallic halo of vibraphones and the snarks of muted trombones, speaks just as directly in our techno-threatened age as it did the Millennium series took three at the height of the Cold War. The birth-to-death idea behind Tippett's Fourth Symphony is

one of the great constant human clarity and intellectual virtuosthemes, and we are probably a ity have never been called into Norrington conducted the Lon-Harrison Birtwistle's The Tri- lot less inclined to giggle un- question to anything like the don Philharmonic Choir and and music demand. comfortably at tape-recorded breathing sounds than many listeners were when the Sympho-

ny first appeared, in 1977. Simon Rattle's performances of the Birtwistle and the Tippett were of the kind that demonstrate elegantly how the

same degree.

What all three performances lacked - to my ears - was the work which, when it was still unquantifiable "tingle factor". Yes, the central climax of the Birtwistle was clearly the right Now it is often performed by organic development at the amateur groups. It needs enright time, but there was nothelements slot together and the ing thrilling or disturbing about hand from the conductor. Nor-Thave never before heard such of the amplification. And yes, man, but here the music fell too lence doubts (mine included). posefully as anything in the Knussen's compact Third Sym- more popular Second Sym- der-whelming. The choir sang phony sounded equally clear phony, but the brass fanfares of solidly enough, but without and well-calculated, but then its ten sounded cautious, reined-in. great intensity, and of the

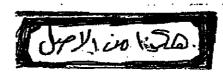
The previous evening, Roger

Orchestra in Tippett's much earlier A Child of Our Time, a new (the Forties), was considered hellishly difficult to sing. thusiasm, though, and a firm "Deep River", was strangely un-

soloists, only baritone Gerald Finley found the urgency text

Hearing A Child of Our Time preceded by performances (by the London Adventist Chorale) of the Black American spirituals it borrows in lieu of chorales made one realise afresh how inspired Tippett's use of these tunes was - and how untypical of its time. But then, according to argument flows. On that level, it, apart from the sheer volume rington ought to have been the Nietzsche, geniuses are always "untimely": their works are the a convincing account of the the fast sections Tippett's easily into sections; the final cli- last places one should go look-Tippett - a performance to si- Fourth pressed forward as pur- max, leading to the spiritual ing for the Zeigeist - a truth that Towards the Millennium has only tended to underline,

Stephen Johnson



er, and it is a happy tradition

that their claret is drunk at

of his Harvard classics in 1981

to propose the pleasingly ob-

scure motto "Inter folia fructus"

("Among the leaves the fruit")

when starting the AIWF, which

he intended to be an institution

to study and celebrate the plea-

sures of the table, rather than

the bloated body dedicated to

the interests of producers that

it has become. He invited me to

San Francisco in 1981 to report

on the founding of the organi-

sation, and I remember flying

to Santa Monica (in a com-

mercial plane - his own was be-

ing serviced) for lunch at his

friend Michael McCarty's

restaurant. We carried bottles

of Chalone with us, carefully,

He took me to meet Robert

Huttanback, the Chancellor of

the University of California,

Santa Barbara, with whom he

was in negotiations to found an

academic department of gas-

tronomy. This evolved into the

AIWF, but not before Graff got

stung by arranging for the loan

of a large sum of money to res-

cue the rump of the Andre

Simon / Eleanor Lowenstein

collection of historical cookery

books. But Graff persevered and

interested Robert Mondavi, Ju-

lia Child, the British-educated

San Francisco chef Jeremiah

Tower and, most significantly.

terms with the actor, for he took

me to tea (a glass of chardon-

nay, actually) at his house.

Graff was evidently on good

Danny Kaye, in the project.

on our knees.

Graff still retained enough

Chalone's AGM,

Professor Franz Kahn

FRANZ KAHN was a distin- electrons from the Sun by he showed that in estimating guished astrophysicist, a world solar flares. leader in theoretical studies of the physics and the dynamics of Manchester as Assistant Lecthe interstellar medium.

His special gift was the ability to illustrate the essentials of low to the newly forming Dea complicated problem by the partment of Astronomy headed formulation of models which were both mathematically tractable and which retained the cessively Lecturer, Senior Lecessentials of the system under turer, Reader and in 1966 study. His lifelong activity in Professor. He was given the ti-Manchester's Department of Astronomy as colleague to the late Professor Zdenek Kopal ensured that Manchester theoretical studies would complement the radio observations emanating from Jodrell Bank, with which he in particular established close links.

Kahn was of German-Jewish stock. His parents Siegfried and Grete Kahn lived in Nuremberg, where Siegfried was a successful manufacturer of children's toys, including Trix model railways, of quality similar to the British Hornby class. Recognising the way Germany was developing in the Thirties, the Kahns organised their affairs so that in 1938 they could bring Franz and his elder sister Charlotte to England. Franz was enrolled at St Paul's School, London, where he soon showed his mettle, even winning the form prize for English after only a couple of years in England.

In 1944 he went up to Queen's College, Oxford, gaining a first in Mathematics in 1947. The following year he transferred to Balliol College while working as a research student under the supervision of Sydney Chapman, a pioneer of cosmical electrodynamics, and in particular of solar-terrestrial relations. Kahn's DPhil thesis was on the expulsion of ions and

DYSON

In 1949, Kahn moved to turer in Mathematics. In 1952 he transferred as Research Felby Kopal; there he remained for the rest of his life, becoming sucde Emeritus Professor on his retirement in 1993. He was an excellent supervisor of research students, many of whom have gone on to leading positions

round the world.

Kahn worked in many areas in astronomy, and was particularly well known for his contributions to the physics and dynamics of the interstellar medium. A crucial question is that of the energy sources that maintain the highly supersonic motions of the interstellar gas clouds. Sir Arthur Eddington, Bengt Stromgren and others had earlier pointed out that the ultra-violet part of the spectrum of radiation emitted by newly formed, hot stars would ionise neighbouring hydrogen (the "photo-electric effect"), so increasing the temperature by a factor of a hundred or more.

Jan Oort of Leiden noted that the associated high pressure of such an "HII-zone" would inevitably accelerate gas clouds, and, in one of his earlier papers, Kahn gave an elegant mathematical study of the process. In another paper he pointed out that, equally, the input of heat ' due to the dissipation of the kinetic energy of clouds by mutual collision must be included in temperature estimates, especially of the cooler, neutral

treatment is essential.

In 1958, he was the joint win-German Society of Scientists and Physicians, on "Star Formation through the Condensation of Diffuse Matter", his essay demonstrating that his skill as a synthesiser of ideas matched his physical understanding and his analytical expertise.

Kahn's later papers include important contributions to our understanding of "planetary nebulae", emitted during the late stages of stellar evolution; the remnants of exploding stars ("supernovae"); and to the electrodynamics of "pulsars" rapidly rotating collapsed magnetic stars.

His many other publications include a discussion of "Life in the Universe", and a joint paper in Nature, with his wife Carla, summarising a collection of letters from Alfred Einstein to the Dutch astronomer Willem de Sitter, discovered in the Leiden archives by Carla during one of their several visits to the Netherlands. They were written mainly during the First World War, when the publication of Einstein's relativistic theory of gravitation had led to the first papers on modern cosmology the study of the Universe as a

The paper makes especially interesting reading today, when Einstein's "cosmical repulsion", opposing gravity and becoming large at large distances - described later by Einstein himself as his "biggest mistake" - has travelling from one son to nevertheless again surfaced in another. "Hi" clouds. In a seminal paper cosmological discussion.

the efficiency of collisions be- Copeland, whom he had met tween rarified ionised clouds, a shortly after coming to Man-"collective", many-particle chester, in 1951. She was herself a graduate in Mathematics from Bedford College, London. ner of a competition, set by the They were a very happy couple, enjoying each other's company and that of their two sons and two daughters. Once her children were at school, Carla returned to mathematics teaching. But in 1981, when she was applying for a new post as warden in a university hall of residence, she quite unexpectedly suffered a stroke and died the next day, aged only 52. Franz Kahn showed exceptional strength of character in adapting to the new life that had been forced on him. In the words of his children, he was grateful for the happy life he bad had with Carla, and felt it would be impertinent to ask for more.

In the introduction to his naper on the dynamics of the galactic fountain, published in a Festschrift for Zdenek Kopal, he wrote: "It is a commonplace that life can be cruel. But fortunately fate only rarely administers so devastating a blow. I dedicate this paper - the first scientific work that I have attempted since Carla's death to her memory."

Franz Kahn was an engaging companion, both professionally and socially, wearing his erudition lightly. Like all academics, he appreciated recognition, but never let delay in its appearance worry him unduly. He was a happy man, enjoying each stage of his life as it came. His end was, like his wife's, sudden - he had a heart attack at a petrol station while



sity, 1949-52, Turner Newall Fellow Reader 1962-66, Professor of

Franz Daniel Kahn, astrophysicist: President, International Astronomi born Nuremberg, Germany 13 cal Union Commission on Inter-May 1926; Assistant Lecturer in stellar Matter 1970-73; Chairman, Mathematics, Manchester Univer- SERC Astronomy Theory Panel 1976-79; FRS 1993; married 1951 1952-55, Lecturer in Astronomy Carla Copeland (died 1981; two 1955-58, Senior Lecturer 1958-62, sons, two daughters); died Bourne End, Buckinghamshire 8 Astronomy 1966-93 (Emeritus); February 1998.

Richard Graff

RICHARD GRAFF was killed schild, the owner of Château when the single-engine Cessna Lafite, is a Chalone shareholdhe was flying hit an electricity pylon and crashed into a greenhouse. He frequently flew himself between his house in San Francisco and his work at Chalone Vineyards, in the Gavilan Mountains in Monterey County, three hours' drive south of the Bay area.

A versatile man, Dick Graff had studied Zen Buddhism. knew the Dalai Lama, brought Burgundian wine-making techniques to California, was a partner in the first American premium wine company to be publicly quoted, and, with Julia Child and Robert Mondavi. founded the American Institute of Wine and Food. He also had a special interest in continental organs, and could take a complicated instrument to bits and put it back together.

He graduated from Harvard, where he studied music in 1958. There followed three years as a naval officer, and then a job in a bank. He was rescued from the bank by his father, Russ Graff, who asked Rodney Strong (who before becoming a winemaker had been a dancer on Broadway and in Paris) to give Dick a weekend job at the vineyard he leased at Chalone. Dick Graff immediately recognised that he had a vocation, spent a year studying oenology, and in 1965, with a loan from his mother, bought Chalone. He made his first vintage in 1966, but did not release any wine commercially until 1969.

He once told me that he had seen a similarity between the property's limestone and the vineyards of Burgundy that he loved, and realised that the concept of terroir was applicable in Monterey. He introduced to California winemaking the French technique of fermenting chardonnay in oak barrels rather than stainless steel tanks, and promoting malolactic (second-stage) fermentation, and soon his chardonnay and pinot noir had a cult following and commanded high prices.

Woodward, an accountant, had no trouble attracting new investors, though some of them were probably more interested in acquiring the fairly rare wine than in owning the shares. In the 1980s the company acquired two other wineries. Acacia in Hapa Valley, and Carmenet in the Sonoma Valley. Chalone went public in 1984. It now owns 50 per cent of Edna Valley Vineyard in San Luis Obispo County; 51 per cent of Canoe Ridge Vineyard in Washington state; and 24 per cent of Chateau Duhart-Milon in Bordeaux. Domaines Barons de Roth-



Graff: Inter folia fructus

There Kaye told us of his owr passion for Chinese cooking and showed us his photograph album with a picture of himsel at the stove with Paul Bocuse plus others of Kaye conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic assisting Dr Michael De Bake at open-heart surgery, and at the controls of a 747. Graff was himself on the Graff and his partner, Philip

board of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and among the books he wrote was a par ticularly beautiful example he published privately called A Vision for the Millennium: to wards a new civilisation (1995) He had recently retired from the active management of Chalone and since 1996 had produced. tiny amount of wine from Chalone grapes marketeunder the Richard Graff labe The bundreds of peopl present at Graff's (non

denominational) memorial ser vice at Grace Cathedral in Sa Francisco remembered, as h many British friends do, a conplicated man with an almoalarming sunny nature, phys cally fit, even tough, but with a immediately accessible soft cer tre. Dick Graff would work th vinevards himself, but he was grandee at heart. He once aske to borrow my London flat. warned him it was a slum, bu he said he was on an econom drive. The next day he invite my wife to lunch, returned th keys, and moved into the Rit

Paul Lev

Richard H. Graff, winemaker: bo Connecticut 24 January 1937; died ne Salinas, California 9 January 1998

The Right Rev Gordon Wheeler

IN HIS book The RCs, published in 1967, George Scott remarked of Bishop Gordon Wheeler that "in his familiarity and sympathy with the cultural and educational background shared by the majority of his fellow countrymen, he differs from most of his fellow bishops. His style of living is English . . . he had a different background from the other bishops - Manchester Grammar School and University College, Oxford." That this was the case reflected the course of Wheeler's journey of faith. Born into the Church of

England, in his youth he was greatly influenced by the Anglo-Catholic regime at his parish church in Worsley, near Manchester. After his graduation in 1932 he entered St Stephen's House, Oxford, to train for the Anglican priesthood and from there he went on to curacies in Brighton and Chesterfield before becoming Assistant Chaplain at Lancing College, Sussex. Throughout this period he was moving ever closer to Roman Catholicism, and he later admitted that by 1932 he had become "intellectually convinced" of the Roman Catholic position.



Wheeler: bishop with a keen sense of history

er's life came in 1936 when he finally decided to become a Catholic and was received into the Church at Downside Abbey in September that year. Soon afterwards, he travelled to Rome and entered the Beda College as a student for the Archdiocese of Westminster. He was ordained priest in 1940, and for the next four years was a curate in Lower Edmonton, until he joined the staff of Westminster Cathedral in 1944. In 1950, he became Chaplain to the Cath-

The turning-point of Wheel- olic students of London University and in 1954 was recalled to Westminster as

Cathedral Administrator. The next 10 years were, probably, his most enjoyable as he directed the liturgical and pastoral life of the cathedral with great style and dedication. Wheeler's leadership enhanced the cathedral in many ways, not least by overseeing the successful implementation of some of the architect J.F. Bentlev's original plans for the interior decoration of his masterpiece.

jutor Bishop of Middlesbrough. to attend the later sessions of the Second Varican Council. He expected, in due course, to succeed Bishop George Brunner in Middlesbrough and was surprised to find himself translated to the Diocese of Leeds in 1966, to succeed George Patrick Dwyer, who had been appointed Archbishop of Birmingham. Wheeler became the seventh Bishop of Leeds just a few months after the end of the Vatican Council and from the start, the aim of his episcopate was to 'implement the Council".

To that end. Wheeler established the Wood Hall Pastoral and Ecumenical Centre in 1967, the first Catholic diocesan council. With hindsight, in later years he was apt to regret that this initiative did not achieve more by way of disseminating the authentic fruits of Vatican II, and to speculate that it would have been better to concentrate on promoting this aim in the parishes, among priests

ministrator established Wheel- Nevertheless, Wood Hall epit- end of his "working life". But his er's reputation not just in omised Wheeler's vision of a proved to be a very full and ac-London but further afield and church enriched by careful re- tive retirement, until the onset in 1964 he was appointed Coad-flection on the work of the Vat- of his final illness last summer. ican Council, in contrast to what In this capacity he was eligible he saw as the frequent, and sometimes deliberate, misinterpretations of conciliar teachings.

His loyalty to the Second Vatican Council was also apparent in 1980 when he was largely responsible for creating the Diocese of Hallam, by the separation from Leeds of 50 parishes in South Yorkshire to form the larger part of the new diocese, centred on Sheffield. This move conformed to the principle that dioceses should be of a size which permits effective pastoral care and administration by a single bishop; but, for a man with a keen sense of history, the division of a diocese which had existed since 1878

caused not a little sorrow. Shortly before Wheeler's retirement in 1985, on reaching his 75th birthday, a parishioner in Bradford wished the bishop a "happy redundancy". He would have been the first to see the amusing side of her misconception, yet it contained a grain of truth large enough to cause

His years as Cathedral Ad- and people at the grass roots. a certain unease as he neared the

He was a much loved and respected figure in his own diocese, and far beyond. The motto on his episcopal coat of arms was "Veritas et Caritas" and the essence of Gordon Wheeler's life as both priest and bishop was his abiding desire to serve the Church in truth and love.

Robert E. Finnigan

William Gordon Wheeler, priest born Dobcross, Yorkshire 5 May 1910; ordained priest 1934; Curate, St Bartholomew's, Brighton 1933-34; Curate, St Mary and All Saints, Chesterfield 1934-35; Assistant Chaplain, Lancing College 1935-36; ordained priest of the Roman Catholic Church 1940; Assistant, St Edmund's, Lower Edmonton 1940-44; Chaplain, Westminster Cothedral and Editor, Westminster Cathedral Chronicle 1944-50: Choblain, London University 1950-54; Ecclesiastical Adviser, Union of Catholic Students 1953-60; Administrator, Westminster Cathedral 1954-65; Coadjutor Bishop of Middlesbrough 1964-66; Bishop of Leeds 1966-85 (Emeritus); died Leeds 20 February 1998.

FAITH & REASON

A move from the uncomfortable to the smelly

If the Prime Minister converted to Catholicism it would not matter because religion no longer counts, argues Andrew Brown.

THE PRAYER of St Augustine may be modified for use by Cardinals: "Oh Lord, make Blair Catholic - but not yet." There is something fishy about the story that Tony Blair has been seen loitering with intent in Westminster Cathedral: it is impossible to dismiss out of hand the possibility that the Prime Minister might be feeling the pull of Rome even when we are assured by Paul Johnson that it must be true. Even the sort of liberal Roman Catholic who can generally be relied on to disagree with Paul Johnson about everything will not, in private, dismiss the possibility that the Prime Minister might be feeling the occasional twinge of longing for the mother church. They know that such twinges may come to anyone and even overwhelm them; and that, even if it makes no sense for Blair to become a

Catholic, it still might happen. It is difficult to give the right weight

conflict so absolutely with the ways in which the press normally reports religious sentiment. The original reports of Blair's attendance at Westminster Cathedral came refracted through the goggle-eyed disbelief of most journalists that anyone could ever enter a church without ulterior motives. It is a basic assumption of most reporting and thinking about religion that worship is a disagreeable experience, and the more fervent and sincere, the more disagreeable it is likely to be for all concerned. The idea that anyone might call in at a church for refreshment makes no sense at all in the context in which news is usually reported.

This generalised hostility or incomprehension towards religion does discriminate between Catholicism and Protestantism - roughly speaking, it holds that Protestantism is disagreeable and uncomfortable and Catholicism disagreeable and smelly. Neither of these characterisations explains why someone might change from one to the other. What an enormous change this represents from the situation even 40 years ago. Then there was no doubt that Catholicism stood for something profoundly different from Protestantism. It was not just the political and constitutional problems, though these seemed to these intuitions, partly because they real enough even 20 years ago, when

Enoch Powell, in one of his more privileged way of looking at the world. harmless lunacies, decided that it would be illegal for Pope John Paul II to visit the country. The idea that English nationalism is

necessarily, or essentially Protestant, has simply withered away to the point where it makes no sense any more. though it formed part of the nation's self-understanding for nearly 400 years. In Northern Ireland it makes a bitter and twisted sense still, but that is something that Tony Blair's government is trying to abolish. The effort to separate religious and tribal identity in Northern Ireland has nothing to do with the Prime Minister's religious leanings. These are subordinate to the overwhelming belief in modernity as the solvent for old problems, and that, though it makes it possible or at least thinkable for him to become a Catholic, also changes the meaning of the conversion to something our ancestors could not recognise.

Yet even after the political classes in this country had abandoned the sense of a special Protestant destiny as ridiculous - and this abandonment must have something to do with changing political attitudes to Europe - the idea of Catholicism as something culturally dis-

This shows very clearly in Brideshead Revisited, where the author makes his characters behave in ways inexplicable. to the modern secular mind as they respond to the promptings of grace. But Brideshead also offered another way of viewing Catholics as different: they were more fashionable, more exotic, and had better legs - in fact they were altogether more like Ms Cristina Odone - than normal people. And the discussion over Blair's possible conversion shows that that distinction, too, has vanished. No one has suggested that the Prime Minister will become a more interesting or exonic figure if he converts. The assimilation of the religion to the mainstream is complete. It may be the greatest triumph of Cardinal Hume's leadership. One small doubt must remain.

though. The argument of this piece is that the Prime Minister may well become a Catholic; but only because it no longer matters. No one supposes it wil affect his politics. The Catholic Church has become as English as the House o Lords and nearly as grand but on the way it has lost a lot of elemental force The logical culmination of these deer trends is a House of Lords when everyone, from Earl Blair downwards tinct and alien remained vivid. is a Catholic - but the Church has no Catholics, it seemed, had a different and members outside it.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (BIFERS, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Hernoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazetos Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eli Spute. what, London EW 3UL, telephoned to 071-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 071-293 2011) or faxed to 071-293 2010, and are charged at £4.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone rumber.

Lectures TODAY

National Gallery: Rachel Barnes. "Dogs (1): Bessano, The Good Sumaritan", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Mu h Elkin, "Neoclassical Design in Britain", 230pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "William Blake to Mondrian: unifying aims". lpm. National Portrait Gallery: An-

gelo Cox. The Royal Academy and Sir Jarhua Reynolds", 3pm TOMORROW Tace Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. 'Art Which Menaces Propriety' National Portrait Gallery: Eliza-

both Allen. "George Ronney and Fashionable Portraiture", 3pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princete Royal, Parson, Several Re-Limits attends the Walery Seveland Internation http://www.bisches.com/parsons/bischese Charging of the Guard
Thanging of the Guard
Total in weight to the Municipal Report of the County
Total in the New Like Guard at Horse strong to the Port of the County Like Guards I have been deared. He have been determined to the Port of the County have been decreased at Horse Guards. He had a Horse Guards, Hean, F Lings, Land of the Sale Househ House, I have had provided by the Lightness Telephon. Birthdays TODAY: Sir Robert Atkinson, for-

mer chairman, British Shipbuilders, 82; Mr William Boyd, author, 46; Mr William Bromley-Davenport, Lord-Licutenant of Cheshire, 63; Mr Michael Chance, counter-tenor, 43; Mr Malcolm Chisholm MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Scottish Office, 49; Mr Gilbert Cooke, former chairman, C.T. Bowring & Co, 75; Mr Michael Finnissy, composer and pianist, 52; Mrs Deborah Forbes, Headmistress. Queen Anne's School, Reading, 52: Sir Kenneth Green, Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Met-ropolitan University, 64; Sir Anthony Hidden, High Court judge, 62; Mr John Horam MP, 59; Mr Dan Jacobson, novelist, 69; Mr Nicholas Kraemer, conductor, 53; Sir Anthony Lambert, former ambassador to Portugal, 87; Sir John Latey, former High Court judge, 84; Mr Ivan Lendl, tennis player, 38; Sir Paul Nicholson, Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, 60; Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, a former Lord Justice of Appeal in Ordinary, 77; Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, sculptor, 74; Professor Lord Phillips of Ellesmere, molecuhar biophysicist, 74; Mr Piers Paul Read, novelist, 57; Mr Viv Richards, cricketer, 46; Mr Mark Rowland, athlete, 35; The Earl of Snowdon, photographer, 68; Sir David Spedding, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, 55; Sir Ranulph Twistleton-Wykcham-Fiennes. explorer, 54; Miss Zena Walker, actress, 64; Dame

Margaret Weston, former Director, Science Museum, 72. TOMORROW: Maj-Gen Sir Christopher Airy, former Private Secretary to the Prince and Princess of Wales, 64; Professor Charles Boxer, historian and author, 94; Mr er, ursonan and author, 94; Mr Gyles Brandreth, journalist and broadcaster, 50; Sir Julian Bullard, former ambassador to West Germany, 70; Professor Sir Donald Campbell, anaesthetist and former

President, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 68; Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor, 74; Miss Cyd Charisse, film actress and dancer, 77; Mr Phil Edmonds, cricketer, 47; Mr Michael Grade, former chief executive of Channel 4 Television, 55; Miss Eileen Herlie, actress 78: Lord Hurd of Westwood, former /8; Lou Film of Weshwood, former government minister, 68; Mr Michael Inchbald, interior designer, 78; Miss Ann Jenner, ballerina, 54; Mr Gary Numan, rock musician, 40; Mr Mark Oaten MP, 34; Miss Lyan Redgrave, actress, 55; Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi, 50; Miss Lynn Seymour, bal-lerina, 59; Professor Stephen Smith, gynaecologist, 47; Professor Norman Stone, historian, 57; Mr Robert Tear, operatic tenor, 59; Miss Claire Trevor, actress, 89; Mr David Wilkie

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: St Thomas Aquinas, Christian philosopher, 1274; Sir Edwin Henry Landscer, painter, 1802. Deaths: Percy Wynam Lowis, writer and artist, 1957; Florence Margaret (Stevie) Smith, poet, 1971. On this day: the first tele-phone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell, 1876. Today is the Feast Day of St Ardo, St Drausius or Drausin, St Esterwine, St Paul the Simple and St Theophylact. TOMORROW: Births Kenneth

Grahame, author, 1859; Otto Hahn, physicist and chemist, 1879. Deaths: Louis-Hector Berlioz, composer, 1869; Sir William Turner Walton. composer, 1983. On this day: the Soviet Union claimed to be the possessor of the atomic bomb, 1950. Tornorrow is the Feast Day of St Duthac, St Felix of Dunwich, St Humphrey or Hunfrid, St John of God, St Julian of Toledo, Saints Philemon and Apol-lonius, St Ponnus of Carthage, St Senan of Scattery, St Stephen of

INDEPENDENT

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The problem with our wanton boys

SHAKESPEARE set the text for New Labour's social policy 400 years ago: "I wish there were no age between 10 and 23, because young men get wenches with child, upset the ancientry, stealing and fighting." That, precisely, is the problem identified by the Home Secretary last weekend. Boys and men of all classes are acting like the loutish heroes of the television comedy Men Behaving Badly, he said. "There's certainly something quite worrying about what is happening to a generation of men."

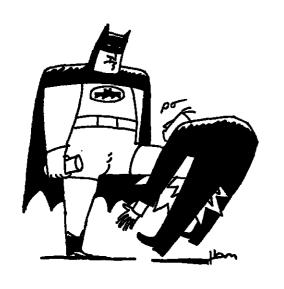
Many of the modern ills which so exercise Jack Straw and Tony Blair touch on the behaviour of males. Crime, petty vandalism, public disorder, lone parenthood, family breakdown, educational standards. In each case it is boys and men who are the focus of public policy. They are falling behind girls at school, more likely to play truant, lose interest, experiment with drugs and behave anti-socially. They are overwhelmingly responsible for the small acts of aggression which too often build up into a pattern of crime. They get wenches with child and disappear into a nether zone where the Child Support Agency cannot reach them. Or they stick around for a bit and then push off, losing contact with their children and depriving them of role models. It was ever thus, but it seems to be getting worse.

On cue, as if on a mission to prove Mr Straw right, Liam Gallagher was arrested and released on bail in Brisbane for allegedly breaking a fan's nose. For the benefit of any judges who might be reading, Mr Gallagher is the lead singer in a rock band. Oasis, renowned for their infantile and disrespectful behaviour - as well as their music. This week a Sydney woman claimed he had harassed her. He is deemed unsuitable when it comes to drawing up lists of invitations to Downing Street functions, but his marginally more respectable older brother Noel has shared champagne with

(Mind you, it was Noel who last week offered reporters, trailing the band like seagulls following a ship, some tasteless words on the subject of the

Mr Straw may be gratified to have his thesis vindicated in full Technicolor, like an X-rated soap opera entitled "The Problem With Boys", but the question is what he intends to do about it.

Shakespeare's shepherd in The Winter's Tale suggests the Government should simply abolish men between the ages of 10 and 23. This is the policy currently being enacted in the United States, where a large proportion



of this age group are locked up in prison. Unfortunately, it does not seem to have worked there, and Mr Straw would no doubt want to extend the scope of the policy in both directions. Liam Gallagher is 25. And Mr Straw has already proposed a curfew on under-10s, combined with national homework norms and state-sponsored bedtime guidelines.

Perhaps the Government should consider other approaches. In his interview, the Home Secretary said: "Some men find it really very difficult to cope with the fact that women are now increasingly on an equal footing ... They try to cope with that by acting the goat, by being the fool." The implication of that is that the blame for Liam's antics lies with Patsy Kensit (notes for judges: she is Mrs Liam Gallagher). Well, perhaps on reflection and after a thorough and wide-ranging review Mr Straw will conclude that the Women (Second Class Citizens) (Restoration) Act would not be the ideal answer.

Equally, ministers should hesitate before blaming television. Mr Straw himself admitted he found Men Behaving Badly "entertaining". And cartoons, after decades of a very bad press, were exonerated by a study published this week. It concluded that boys tend to watch different kinds, preferring action dramas such as Street Sharks and Batman. But as anyone who had actually watched these morally didactic tales would know, they are pretty barmless.

No, when it comes to tackling the tangled undergrowth of causation linking anti-social male behaviour, poverty and exclusion, there is no alcrnative to the Home Secretary's patient and rather boring list of detailed nitiatives. From the moment he inherited the home affairs brief from his fellow social moralist Mr Blair in 1994, Mr Straw has worked on the nitty gritty of what really matters on the ground. Problem families on problem estates; co-operation between police, courts, councils, schools, social workers, charities, churches; and a shift in the focus of public debate to how amilies work - boys, bedtimes and parenting, rights and responsibilities.

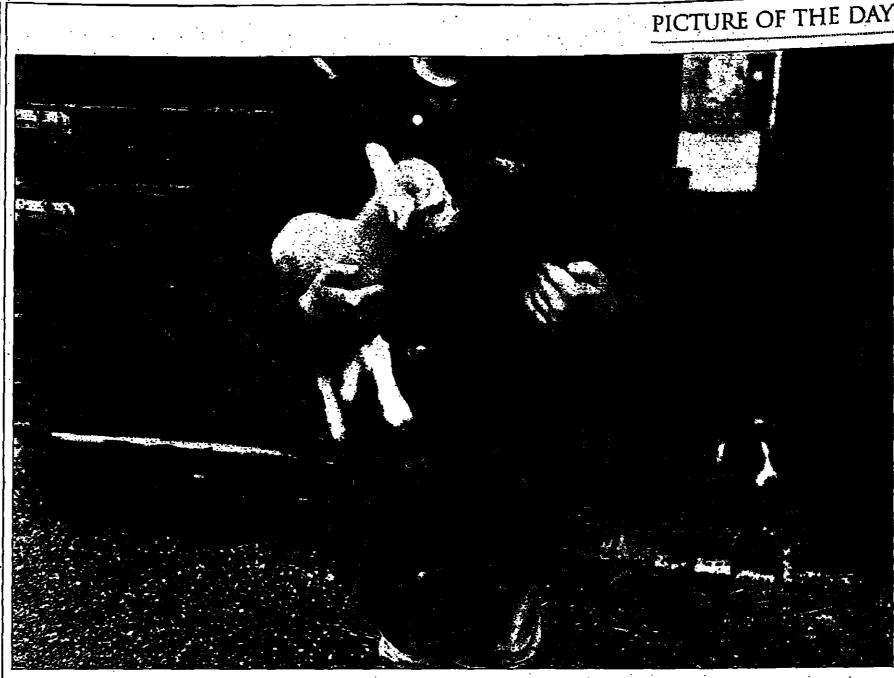
Much of this is earnest and unglamorous politics, but his grasp of these lifficult issues explains why the Home Secretary has been one of the unexpected stars of the new Labour administration.

Children's right to privacy is paramount

IEANWHILE, as just one example of The Problem With Boys, it is noticeable hat parents these days are often as afraid for their sons as for their daughers, because teenage boys are more likely to be assaulted by others in the

reet. Indeed, one such incident was reported prominently yesterday. A 14-year-old boy and his friend were set upon outside their school by we older boys, thought to be from another school. The boy was bruised nd scratched, but otherwise all right. So why was this minor incident the ront-page lead story in The Express and a front-page "exclusive" in The un? Simply because the boy's father is famous. And what did the editors f these papers sign up to just four months ago, in response to public conern about invasions of privacy after Princess Diana's death? A Code of onduct: solemn, binding and positively the last chance for press self-reglation. "Where material about the private life of a child is published there rust be justification for publication other than the fame, notoriety or position his or her parents or guardian," the Code says. Further, "I'm cases inplying children, editors must demonstrate an exceptional public interest override the normally paramount interests of the child.

The child's father does not want to file a complaint with the Press Comaints Commission. But why should he have to complain? Where is Lord akeham, the PCC's chairman? The time has come for someone else to y to make self-regulation work. Otherwise, Parliament will have to act. | International Action Center, pub-



Twin lambs born three days ago are watched over by Bart the sheepdog at Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire. The farm at the hall is open to the public over the Photograph: Brian Harris weekend, from !!am until 4pm.

House-moving hell

IN VIEW of your leader ("End the agony of moving house", 5 March), may I assure your readers that the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors will not seek to obstruct any innovation in relation to the housebuying process which is in the best interests of buyers and sellers? On the contrary it has published an antigazumping and gazundering agreement and is participating constructively as a member of the government steering committee overseeing research into the causes

Lenders are primarily concerned need a valuation.

The RICS, lenders and the Con-policy. sumers Association have, however, long been concerned to advise prospective purchasers that they should not rely on the mortgage valuation report as the basis of their decisions to buy. As Jeff Howell ("Mortgage lenders may drop surveys" 5 March) makes clear, most have not taken that advice. If in future they are not going to have to bear the cost of a mortgage valuation they may be willing - and would certainly be wise - to put that saving towards obtaining independent advice in the form of the RICS/ISVA Homebuyer Survey and Valuation Service or a building survey.

The institution, along with the ISVA and NAEA has, at the Government's request, agreed to review the option that a report on each second-hand property be made available to all interested parties at the time it is put on the market. This. along with public access to prices paid in recent sales, would allow prospective purchasers to make an informed decision, reduce subsequent withdrawals, delays and renegotiation. PETER MCKENDRICK

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Iraq legacy

WITHOUT wishing to detract from Robert Fisk's excellent reports from Iraq I feel compelled to point out that the reference in your leader to "Robert Fisk's discovery" ("Deadly legacies of war, 5 March) concerning cancer in southern Iraq is in-

The possible links between the use of depleted uranium (DU) ordnance by the allied forces in the 1991 Gulf "war" and the increase in the number of childhood cancers in Kuwait and southern Iraq have been known for a long time. Thus a secret 1991 report for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority suggested that there was enough DU in these areas to cause "500,000 potential

The report also stated that "It is in both the Kuwait and UK interest that this is not left to rear its head in years to come."

Last May the former US attorney general Ramsey Clark's group, The

LETTERS

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the subject.

What is true is that, by and large, the media has shown little interest in reporting the suffering of the Iraqi people - despite the fact that our government is in large part responsible for its continuation. I hope the front-page headline ("Iraqi children are dying - you can save them", 6 with the security of the loans they March) doesn't give people the false choose to make. Of course chartered impression that by sending money to surveyors are happy to provide the your appeal they can have any seriinspection and valuation reports ous impact on this suffering. If they they require, but we accept that really want to help they should orwhere this ratio of loan to value is ganise within their local communi- nal of weapons of mass destruction Government to change its immoral

> GABRIEL CARLYLE Junior Research Fellow Magdalen College

ROBERT FISK gave a graphic and moving account of the appalling medical conditions in Iraq and the desperate plight of ordinary Iraqis who are suffering as a result of the sanctions imposed after the Gulf War. Despite statements to the contrary both food and medicines are covered by the sanctions regime. Many common medicines are disbarred because of their "potential use POLITICIANS and commentators in the production of arms". Disposable hypodermic syringes are not allowed, nor are very many common medicines for the treatment of heart disease and cancer. A recent trip to Iraq by voluntary workers carrying vital medicines had many medical supplies impounded by British customs. No medicines can be sent without an export licence from the to screen out distasteful or offensive Government which takes at least 6 months to obtain. How can we possibly continue to support the impo-

lished a book Metal of Dishonor on in deaths and human misery on an a rating system can exist without serapocalyptic scale in the name of world peace and human rights?

Sanctions are the modern weapon of mass destruction and are being applied to finish the job started by the massive bombardment of Iraq in 1991. If such a bombardment were applied to sensitive sites in this country such as Porton Down and Aldecreaston, Sellafield and the plethora of military bases on our islands we too would be suffering from the fallout caused. Let us not forget that our arse-

threat to other nations since they have ben used to such great effect upon Iraq. Those who wish to donate small or large amounts to charities to send food and medicines to relieve the suffering in Iraq should at the same time and, more importantly, be demanding the lifting of sanctions to end this genocidal attack upon innocent and helpless human beings. STEPHANIE AL-WAHID

Porn on the Internet

alike have congratulated Internet Watch Foundation on their war against digital porn, in particular child porn

("Porn images seized", 4 March). In their report on Internet Content Rating the IWF claim not only to be enemies of the pomographer but also to be defenders of free speech. By enabling users the choice material, so the argument goes, there will be less need for governments to regulate the Internet. Personally, I do sition of sanctions that are resulting not believe for one moment that such

vice providers, owners of search engines, colleges and workplaces using such a system to screen material be-

cide for themselves. The IWF also claims that the proposed system is primarily aimed at parents. As parents we have a duty to protect children from the nastier aspects of life but we also have a duty not to stick our heads in the sand. How can we make informed judgesee and may never even know exists?

fore users get the opportunity to de-

clearly relatively low they may not ties to put pressure on the is far more diverse and formidable IWF, users will even be protected ic freedom. than those in any Third World coun- from differences of opinion. The try and quite plainly are a far greater proposed scheme contains a category covering "intolerant" views of groups defined by gender, race, sexual orientation, nationality and

> Had we had access to such a system in recent weeks we would presumably bave been blissfully unaware of the US and UK's threats of military action against Iraq or Chris Patten's views of the Chinese goverument expressed in his new book. JASON BURTON Kingston-upon-Thames

Student fees

IN your report ("Lords impose defeat", 3 March) of the debate in the Lords on Student Fees you said that Lord Glenamara (Ted Short) and the Earl of Longford voted against the Government on the amendment that was carried by 143 to 102. In fact, on that amendment, Lord Glena-, mara abstained and Lord Longford voted with the Government. DENIS CARTER

Government Chief Whip

But is it art?

WE WRITE on behalf of the Council of University Deans of Arts and Humanities to express our deep concern over the confiscation by police of a book from the library stock of the University of Central England ("Are his pictures art?" 4 March).

Following referral of the publication to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Crown Prosecution Service has advised police that they have grounds both to ask the university to destroy their copy of Mapplethorpe and to instruct its publishers Jonathan Cape/Random House to pulp all remaining copies. We believe that the possibility that the university may be prosecuted unment about material we never get to der the Obscene Publications Act if they refuse to comply represents In the virtual world offered by the an astonishing assault on academ-

> One of the main functions - and responsibilities - of universities is surely to analyse culture in an objective and non-judgemental way.

Some of Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs are undoubtedly disturbing in their subject-matter, but he was a major contemporary artistphotographer, one whose art should be analysed and interrogated rather than censored or pulped. Furthermore, the context in which these images were brought to the attention of the police and the CPS was that of a serious research project; this alone should bear witness to the integrity and the legality of the university's position.

We earnestly hope that no further action will be taken in this case and that academic freedom may consequently be seen still to exist in the UK. There can be no doubt that if a prosecution does result, both the international standing and the intellectual and moral authority of British higher education will be seriously damaged.

'W that's

We urge the authorities to drop all thought of dragging the UK and its universities back into an era of censorship and Professor MICHAEL WORTON Chair, CUDAH Dean, Faculty of Arts, University College London

Glad to be gay

University College London

ANNA HINDLEY Arts Faculty Administrator

I WAS appalled to find a large photograph of my family in Independent above the headline "Glad Not To Be

Gay" (3 March). This could not be further from the case. Last years my queer music programme won gold at the Sony Radio Awards, I performed at London Gay Pride - and indeed only recently returned from marching at Sydney's Gay Mardi Gras carnival parade last

At next week's Gay & Lesbian American Music Awards in New York, my latest album Having It Both Ways is nominated in four different categories. For the record, I have never, ever, claimed "not to be gay" and my 20-year commitment to lesbian/gay/bisexual politics remains undiminished. TOM ROBINSON London SW18

QUOTE UNQUOTE

I get my own table, free this, free that: I totally exploit it - Ben Affleck, film star, on the deference shown to him by Las Vegas casinos

I was so depressed that I went to see a bereavement counsellor. He told me I was too depressed to treat - Lucy Ellman, novelist

You have to be careful with women in Britain. You must never say, 'Are you a housewife? -Michael Bloomberg. American businessman

I call it demeaning and patronising when a chit of a girl addresses a great-grandmother by her first name - Keith Waterhouse, playwright

I would prefer it if people remembered me as someone who made them laugh, and was able to make them take life a little less seriously, no matter how difficult it really is - Elizabeth Beresford, creator of the Wombles.

It has become fashionable in Conservative circles to dismiss the entire clergy as incorrigible lefties -Peter Lilley. shadow Chancellor



Keith Waterhouse: 'demeaning'

They chickened out and they got themselves in a position where they were inventing reasons why they just didn't want to publish it which were nonsense, leaving me in a completely impossible position - Rupert Mardoch, publisher, on HarperCollins executives and their reluctance to tell Chris Patten to take his book on Hong Kong

Rest in peace? Today's spooks don't stand the ghost of a chance



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Some take the view that spectral infestation is as serious a problem as blocked drains. They may well be right

ARE YOU sitting comfortably? No? Good. Because I want to tell you a ghost story. Only, this isn't a story; it's really true. I heard it

from The Daily Telegraph.

Once upon a time in 1993 in the county of Derbyshire, a joiner called Andrew Smith, his wife Josie and their children, moved into a beautiful country cottage, in the village of Upper Mayfield, for which they paid £44,000. At first the Smiths were very happy. They spent a lot on decorating Lowes Cottage (that was its name) and were very pleased with the results.

But then things started to go wrong. The Smiths began to feel that there was someone in the house besides themselves. Objects moved around of their own accord. Mr Smith became aware of an "evil presence". Then, one dark night, Mrs Smith awoke to find herself being throttled by invisible hands.

Since then there have been periods when the temperature has suddenly dropped, there are inexplicable putrid smells, and the parent Smiths feel themselves to be "touched" in the night. All of which are, of course, also symptoms of a gastric flu outbreak in a young family. Or, more likely, thought the Smiths, of the existence of unquiet spirits.

This feeling was vindicated when the afflicted joiner made enquiries among older villagers. What he discovered made him both angry and frightened. The house had a terrible history indeed. A milkmaid had apparently died after being locked in the cellar (a terrible fate, but one alarmingly common in the 16th and 17th centuries according to ghost watchers). And a young boy had - it was reputed - hanged himself from the

It was obvious to Andrew and Josie that Nelly and Satchaverel (as I like to think of them) were doomed to roam the scene of their deaths, revenging themselves on the living. It also occurred to the haunted couple warned them about the dangers of Lowes

They sought advice from their solicitor, Stephen Savage. His advice was unequivocal. "The principle is familiar," he said. "It's the same as if the vendor did not declare faulty central heating or drain. If the Smiths had known about the cottage's history, they would not have bought it." This week a county court judge granted the Smiths leave to pursue a civil claim for the return of their

Actually, of course, this is not so much a ghost story as a parallel universe story. The Smiths claim to believe in a world in which an estate agents blurb might run thus: "Delightfully aspected strng rm. Sunny, s facing gdn. 2 ambient ghsts, 1 p.geist (upstrs only), lge bthrm w bth, shwr and wraith. Guest cloakrm with hngng child apprtn. Reduced because of dry-rot and curse imposed by warlock from Buxton." And in which house vendors hang over half-doors, look prospective buyers in the eye and mutter "don' ee come here, young master! Nelly be restless with young 'uns about!"

The local council is not sympathetic, refusing to rehouse the Smiths. "The official told us that in the council's eyes a house is not unfit for habitation just because there is a ghost in it," Angle told the Telegraph.

So could the Smiths actually win their case? (I bet their lawyer won't take it on a no win, no fee basis.) Well, it depends on how many others dwell on their parallel plane. For a start they've got a vicar on their side, the Rev Peter Mockford, who has visited the cottage on a number of occasions to bless its rooms ("2nd bdrm, 11x5, crcfx & grlc hook, bissd by chch"). He was so alarmed that he advised the Smiths to leave Lowes Cottage over Halloween for fear of "evil forces building up".

And is it so impossible that they might find themselves in front of a parallel jury, 12 good persons and true, who watch and believe every word of Carol Vorderman's Mysteries on BBC1 and or Strange But True on ITV? Folk who nod at the mention of the word "poltergeist" and whose only question is "what kind: silent or moaning?" They may well take the view that spectral infestation is as real and as urgent a problem as blocked drains (which, from the Smith's description, it so much resembles). In fact many of them might prefer the

A parallel judge may preside (after all, if you accept Masonic ritual, does the idea of moving ectoplasm seem so far fetched?). Evidence could be given by the small army of psychic investigators, geopathic imagers, Feng Shuists, theosophists, new age vicars, crystal strokers, astrologers, druids, Ufologists, necromancers, dowsers and aromatherapists who now stalk Britain, seeking the spiritual dimension. Witnesses galore could be found to testify to the ghostly atmosphere of Lowes Cottage, and - if necessary - to recount their own tales of alien abduction, communion with the dead and previous incamations.

So, is it so unbelievable that the Smiths might indeed win their claim, and get back the £41,000 they paid to Susan Melbourne, who sold Lowes Cottage, and who claims that she grew up there without experiencing any moaning milkmaids or pendant lads? I

mean, who could believe that?

Nobody perhaps. But the reader whichever of the two universes he or she inhabits - might care to reflect on this: Before the Smiths brought their case, they were themselves - by strange coincidence - being sued by Mrs Melbourne. You see, the original price of the house was £44,000. But the Smiths have still not paid £3,000 of this. Four that someone could - someone should - have years after having moved in. Spooky, eh?

Beautiful or not, we should never surrender to the image police

Scorn the squeamish and let even those with the unstylish look be seen, says Trevor Phillips

SORRY, but I'm with Rupert Murdoch. There are certain things that ought not to be allowed into print. Mr Murdoch is, I think, showing a proper respect for the feelings of certain groups of senior citizens in the Republic of China by protecting them from the contents of Chris Patten's memoirs. Who knows what health risks there might be in exposure to criticism? After all, the poor dears aren't used to it. At the very least, some publications should carry a health warning, or the legend "THIS BOOK CON-TAINS DANGEROUS THOUGHTS" or some such. Or, in the case of the London Evening Standard two days ago, there might be an age certifi-

cate, rather like a horror movie. Jocelynne Wildenstein - the Bride of Wildenstein as she should be known - is an awful warning of the dangers of cosmetic surgery. This is the lady who claimed that she had been so pampered by her billionaire husband that she did not know how to boil water or to make toast. After finding her husband in bed with a young woman at the family's New York home, she sued for divorce and this week found herself on the right end of a maintenance order, which will give her an allowance of more than a million pounds a year, a chateau outside Paris and a huge ranch in Kenya. What her husband won't have to pay for - and there is justice in this - is the regular cosmetic surgery that Mrs Wildenstein indulges in, rather as other What no one seems to have

drals. She is now a grotesque. She is also a great newspaper story, and she knows it. Mrs Wildenstein evidently does not know that her cosmetic surgeon has the most bizarre sense of humour in New York; she is so proud of his work that she provides publicity material posed in classic sex-kitten mode

shared with her is the fact that

the operations have left her with

the kind of face normally found

on the side of medacival cathe-

A splendid example appeared in Thursday's Standard, on page three (where else?); and coming upon it unprepared, would have left readers gasping. If the newspaper's editor, in a fit of liberal generosity allowed his staff to run such pictures he should at least have the decency to put a warning on the front page, just as radio producers must run a warning



In the eye of the beholder: Picasso's Woman With a Hat'

the same status as the CRE or

the EOC, and have some re-

sponsibility for ensuring that

people were not alarmed by un-

warranted ugliness, whilst en-

suring that there was no

unjustified discrimination

against the facially challenged.

TV is a medium whose princi-

pal purpose is to entertain.

Does that mean that TV pro-

ducers should be allowed to dis-

criminate against the facially

challenged? If not, what excuse

would there he to turn down

Martin Amis as presenter of

book programmes? Some peo-

ple, for example are said to have

faces perfect for radio, but the

public confounds the rankings

again and again. So much has

been said about Anne Widde-

combe that you would imagine

that she should be a prime can-

didate for gargoyle stakes; yet

she is now emerging as the Cud-

dly Party's pin-up, with her

It would be a difficult job.

about strong language ahead of I have never quite understood their programmes, or television companies do in the case of disturbing images. There could have been a small box that told us that Page Three carries an image that make cause distress to children and people of fronted with non-standard feawomen have their legs waxed. a sensitive disposition. I would tures. I would also argue that have turned straight to pages beauty cannot be reduced to a four and five, since this de-

scribes me precisely. You may say that people in glass houses should not throw stones. Fair enough; but complain when you see my face to those for whom I work. You could also argue that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that I am promoting a profoundly lookist viewpoint. I reject the charge; I can claim enough hours on the front line against prejudice of various kinds not to have to answer to the charge of bigotry. I would, however, acknowledge that the sort of scheme I have in mind

would be hard to police. The judgement about who is truly frightening would undoubtedly be subjective. For example. I gather the popular vote would put Robin Cook and Andrew Neil on the radio, but not TV; I don't see why myself. Yet

how ITV was allowed to expose children to the vast and menacing bulk of Roger Cook before the watershed.

There are good reasons why we should sometimes be conpure matter of the right kind of skin, symmetrical features or any combination of hair, lips and eyes. It is also a matter of feel. In Simon Weston, the soldier who suffered multiple burns in the Falklands conflict, we can see the nobility and courage in his wrecked face and body; the reconstruction work he has undergone have added to our admiration for him.

norms: it is about fitness for Perhaps the way to deal with

This is not about standard

this is to do what governments always do with ticklish issues about which the public cares: establish a quango. It could be called the Public Acceptability Commission, and it could have an Ugliness Code which defines who should be allowed to appear in which media, with or without warnings. It would have

own TV show. On the other hand, there is Peter Mandelson, who is undeniably good-looking, charming, and as I have reported before, good with children, yet has become the figure with whom some parents (admittedly mostly Lahour MPs) frighten their unruly offspring. He himself acknowledged as much at the What The Papers Say awards last week. Despite his success in getting us to vote for his boss, his media appearances merely seem to turn people against him. The putative Public Acceptability Commission would be forced to issue a non-appearance notice against Mandelson, whilst promoting Widdecombe as an example of the way in which the facially challenged can overome prejudice and discrimination.

My own reputation has been immeasurably damaged by the several attempts that I have made to get the political class es not to be prejudiced agains those who seem less than cud dly on TV. My efforts on behal of the Minister Without Port folio should have been seen a just another unpopular cause championed by someone ad dicted to causes. Instead it ha given rise to a rumour that hope to enter politics as . Mandelson protégé. Beside the fact that this is simply no true, would anyone with any se rious ambition really associat themselves with someone whneeds the protection of the Put lic Appearance Commission?

Finally: a public service ar

nouncement. As it happens, - to get a massive turnout in th London referendum on 7 May But as my friends at Operatio Black Vote reminded us yes terday, many young people an people from ethnic minoritie don't register to vote - in som areas a majority exclude then selves from democracy. If Lor don had its own governmen not only would it get the ci moving, it would make the jc of covering the capital's politiinteresting again. So, make n The deadline to register

20 March. I'll remind you whik way to vote nearer the time.

Now that's what I call equality of opportunity



LESLEY RIDDOCH

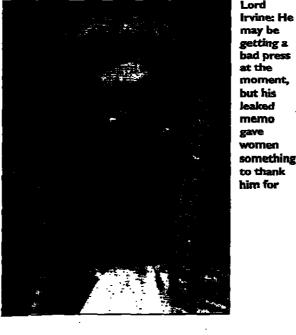
The Noah's Ark principle Labour is using to select candidates for the Scottish Parliament could transform British politics

AT LONG last someone's noticed. And Scotswomen have the much-maligned Derry Irvine to thank.

Before the headline grabbing Lord Chancellor's leaked memo this week few realised Scottish Labour are about to do something revolutionary about gender balance at the ballot box ... fewer understood it and even fewer cored. In fact twinning - or pairing

as Labour describe it to avoid association with junketing councils - could transform UK politics. And a change of that magnitude shouldn't emerge surreptitiously as part of a grudging deal with the Monstrous Regiment - it should be debated and won. Until Derry's leaked memo that was looking unlikely.

Somehow it's okay to give schools exam targets, okay to have the army target black recruits, okay for Oxbridge colleges to target comprehensive pupils, but not okay to force the pace of change for women where it really matters ... at the heart of public policy making. The last time gender balance hit the headlines was 1994 when the Jebson industrial tribunal ruled Labour's women-only shortlists illegal - a breach of the Sex Discrimination Act and unfair to men. Labour decided not to appeal, and the mechanism was scrapped, though not before it delivered the bulk of chosen - the most popular



Labour's successful female candidates for the 1997 general election. The aggrieved Mr Jebson disappeared without

Twinning doesn't mean positive discrimination for women - it delivers fairness for both sexes. Working on the Noah's Ark principle, the 72 Scottish constituencies are paired - by location and winnability. So for example Dunfermline West and Dunfermline East will have one joint selection procedure from which two people will be male and female candidates. It's as simple as that. Despite the Lord Irvine row there is absolutely no doubt the Scottish Labour Party will go ahead with twinning. The only unresolved detail is how the successful man and woman decide

who gets which seat. Twinning gives both sexes an equal chance everywhere, which means a disgruntled man would have a hard time proving discrimination in the courts. He would have to prove two things - that be was a better candidate for the job and that

being a candidate is the same as having a job in the first place. Why then all the fuss this

week about the threat of legal challenge? To an extent Labour is reaping the harvest it sowed when it failed to appeal against the earlier Jebson ruling.

Public opinion is still suspicious of positive discrimination in the workplace. British law, almost alone in Europe, does not allow it. Until recently that hostility was mirrored at the European Court of Justice. But last year it ruled laws correcting historic inequalities between the sexes didn't infringe its Equal Treatment Directive. The Treaty of Amsterdam, signed by Britain, also contains a clause permitting positive action. In short Britain is out of step. Almost every other developed country in the world has more women in government - almost all have used mechanisms to

Every élite thinks it has the intelligence and sense of fairness not to clone itself - but without a conscious effort every elite does just that. And eventually the lack of diverse thought and experience stifles creativity and renders even well meaning policies impracticable. Scotland is going to have a new parliament - a fresh start. Once MPs have been chosen it will be

very difficult to challenge them.

achieve that.

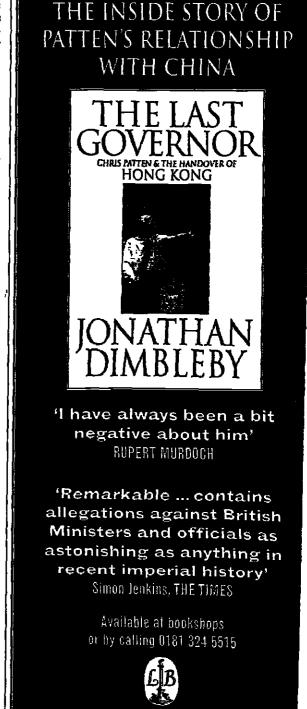
Consider a minute. This powerful and non U-turn prone government has been forced to consider amending the Sex Discrimination Act to try to prevent another hostile and doubtless career-ending legal challenge from an angry man. Does anyone really believe such men will meekly make way for women on a voluntary

For those who complain

'Twinning doesn't mean positive discrimination for women. It means fairness for both sexes'

that 101 Labour women haven't exactly transformed the Commons into a feminist Nirvana, that's true. And the only answer is more women. Evidence from Scandinavia suggests male belief systems aren't even challenged until at least a third of the legislation are female.

Scotland can transform its Rab C Nesbitt image in 1999 by raising the public status of women. If it doesn't many Scots will conclude they've



managed to turn the business

small profit of £1.6m in 1998,

despite having made a loss of

£15m in the first half of the

have been keen to sell the busi-

ness for some time but with

losses mounting it was difficult

to find anybody remotely in-

terested in the business. How-

ever, the return to profit gave

it the group a chance to recoun

at least some of its purchase

duces titles such as Mavis Bea-

graphic and Chessmaster.

Mindscape currently pro-

Ms Scardino has enthusi-

astically set about reforming

the media empire since her ar-

rival in January last year,

launching a £100m expansion

of the FT and selling off some

of the worst performing busi-

And in her biggest acquisi-

tion to date Pearson purchased

All American Communica-

tions, producer of the Bay-

watch series, last October for

\$373m and disposals will give

Pearson more financial clout to

make further substantial ac-

quisitions. Ms Scardino

pledged last year to double the

share price of the group by the

team at Mindscape have done

a fine job in turning around its

performance over the last year.

But Mindscape is always going

to be worth significantly more

to a company like The Learn-

ing Company than it ever will

concentrate our resources on

the media businesses where we

can build market-leading po-

"Its disposal enables us to

Ms Scardino said: "The

year 2002.

Pearson is understood to

Pearson cuts its losses and dumps Mindscape

By Andrew Yates

Pearson, the Financial Times to Madame Tussaud's media conglomerate, yesterday drew a line under one of the most disastrous deals in its history by selling Mindscape, its troubled software group. Mindscape has cost Pearson a total of nearly £260m, including around £48m of operating losses and a £212m loss on disposal

The acquisition of Mindscape is widely recognised in the City as being one of the worst corporate acquisitions this decade. It has been a severe embarrassment to Pearson almost from the first day it was purchased in April 1994. It made a small profit that year but plunged into the red in 1995 and made a loss of £45.5m in the following 12

Analysts believe the dire performance of Mindscape contributed to the downfall of Frank Barlow and Michael Blakenham, Pearson's former managing director and chairman respectively.

The sale is the most significant corporate move so far by Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's new chief executive, who has been handed the daunting task of radically reshaping a group which has been criticised as being a sprawling empire of disparate media interests. She has now raised £500m from disposals since her arrival in January last year.

Mindscape is being sold for \$150m (£91m) to The Learning Company, a US software publisher. News of the sale helped Pearson shares rise 24p to hit an all-time high of 943p as investors sighed with relief that the business had finally been sold.

Analysts pointed out that Frank Barlow was instrumen-

tal in buying Mindscape and its spectacular failure was a severe dent to his credibility in the City. "It was Barlow that forced through this deal and it probably contributed to the rug being pulled from his feet at Pearson," said on analyst.

Pearson bought Mindscape to give it a foothold in the CD-Rom market. It paid \$462m for the original business, but made a number of subsequent acquisitions which brought the total cost to \$503m (£305m). The idea was to exploit Mindscape's technology and Pearson's existing publishing strengths to develop new titles and video games But the ex-

periment quickly turned sour. a huge loss in 1996. Mind-Despite optimistic predictions scape's management have of huge growth, the CD-Rom market flopped. Consumer around. It actually made a demand was lack lustre and a flood of new titles onto the market lead to prices being slashed, with competitors launching a ferocious battle for shelf space. Mindscape also suffered from having more than its fair share of out of date technology. A large

based on supplying software for cartridge based games and it was slow to embrace the shift in consumer demand for per-

amount of its business was

However, since clocking up

Pearson's problem purchase

Pearson buys The Software Toolworks Company for \$462m and renames it Mindscape.

Subsequent acquisitions bring the total cost of Mindscape up to \$503m.

Pearson announces that Mindscape made a profit of just £2.9m for the group in 1994

Pearson admits that Mindscape made a loss of £6.9m

Pearson announces that Frank Barlow, managing director and Lord Blakenham, chairman are to stand down

January 1997 Frank Barlow retires to be replaced by Marjorie Scardino, the first female chief executive of a FTSE-100 company Pearson announces that Mindscape lost £45.5m for the

> group in 1996 Lord Blakenham leaves the group after a career on the

group's board spanning 27 years Frank Barlow knighted in New Years honours list for his Japuary 1998

> services to the media industry Mindscape is sold for \$1,50m (£91m) to The Learning Company, a US software publisher.



con Teaches Typing, The
Complete National Geo- Marjorie Scardino: Her most significant corporate move



Lord Blakenham: Deal may have led to his departure

The team at Mindscape have done a fine job in turning around its performance over the last year. Mindscape is always going to be worth significantly more to a company like The Learning Company than it ever will be to Pearson - March 1998

Glaxo

drops its

plans for

a hostile

Glazo Wellcome has decided

against launching a mil premi-

um hostile bid for SmithKline

Beecham. It has ruled out the

takeover attempt after being un-

able to muster enough support

for the deal from its institutional

shareholders. Glaxo's move is

the final nail in the coffin for

what would have been the

biggest corporate deal in history

and created by far the largest

drugs group in the world. Glaxo

is now preparing to tell advis-

ers to call off bid preparations.

shareholders about a hostile

deal after talks with SmithKline

broke down two weeks ago. Its

move came in response to out-

rage from shareholders after the

merger talks collapsed. Share-

holders were keen to explore

ways of recouping some of the

£15bn wiped from the value of

their holdings since the merg-

launching its own institutional

charm offensive, stressing that it had a strong future as an in-

dependent company and that its

board was fully behind the de-

cision by chief executive Jan

Several large shareholders

Leschly to call off the talks.

SmithKline retaliated by

er talks crumbled.

Glaxo began canvassing

SB bid

By Andrew Yates

The Software Toolworks represents a marvellous opportunity ... to bring on board richly talented people whose skills I believe will make a difference to Pearson in many areas of our growing media business 9 - March 1994

Liberty I

Bank looks abroad in search for new monetary talent

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

THE Bank of England has counterparts, British universibeen forced to cast its net wider ties produce relatively few gradand look abroad in its search for uates with higher degrees. economists and financial spe- Those who do gain Master's cialists to help it in its mission to keep inflation on target and often tempted by the larger guarantee the UK's financial stability. The necessary talents to satisfy the new demand for economic expertise created by Gordon Brown's decision last May to grant the Bank its operational independence are

In a prominent full-page standing UK residents. advertisement in the latest issue of The Economist magazine the Bank calls for applications from experts in a wide range of areas. from monetary theory to country risk analysis. It offers successful candidates "an unrivalled

monetary policy debate". The search for new talent reflects the change in the Bank's nanking supervision arm, it gained sole responsibility for hiting the inflation target set by he Chancellor, putting a new reminm on the quality of its nflation forecasting.

suffers from a shortage of highly trained economists. Unlike their US, Italian and Spanish degrees or doctorates are more salaries they can command in investment banking.

Mr Brown himself opted to appoint two foreign-born economists to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee -Willem Buiter and DeAnne in short supply in this country. Julius - although both are long-

The Government Economic Service, which provides economists to Whitehall departments including the Treasury, has had difficulty in recruiting enough suitably qualified candidates.

Its new recruits are usually opportunity to influence the taken fresh from their first degrees and given further training, but many later succumb to the lure of City banks eager to activities. Although it lost its hire people with some policy

The Bank, which operates a separate recruitment scheme, is looking for economists with at least a Master's degree, or analysts from the financial markets The trouble is that the UK for its financial stability wing.



Waldegrave: His political contacts will be an asset

William Waldegrave finds a berth as director at Kleinwort

By John Willcock

be to Pearson.

William Waldegrave, chief secing his seat in the election last May, to is join Dresdner Klein-

corporate finance division. work at the bank's City offices David Clementi, for instance, on 30 March. A spokesman for the former head of corporate fithe German-owned bank refused to say how much the for- made deputy Governor of the Secretary to the Treasury five mer MP for Bristol West would Bank of England be paid. He will be on a oneyear rolling contract.

the bank through his contacts ford and Harvard. Elected a retary to the Treasury until los- in Whitehall, Westminster, the member of All Souls, his first City and boardrooms across corporate Britain. Kleinwort wort Benson full time as a di- has always prided itself on its Prime Minister and Leader of rector in the investment bank's political contacts. It won many of the first big privatisation He will concentrate on UK mandates in the 1980s, includcorporate clients when he starts ing that of British Telecom. rector of GEC, from 1975 to

> The Right Honourable William Waldegrave comes comment A Dresdner Klein-

> Observers reckon Mr from a Tory political family Waldegrave will be valuable to and was educated at Eton, Oxpolitical job was as political secretary to Edward Heath as the Opposition in 1973-5.

He also acted as assistant to Lord Weinstock, managing di-1981. He first entered the Cabinet in 1990 as Secretary of State nance at Kleinwort, was last year for Health, and rose to Chief years later. He was on holiday yesterday and unavailable for

wort Benson spokesman moved to quash any suspicions that Mr Waldegrave may have ever been in a position to direct privatisation work towards Kleinwort when he was in government. "The Financial Secretary to the Treasury would have dealt with Privatisations; he (Waldegrave) never had anything to do

with that," said the spokesman. Kleinwort says it is growing its corporate finance business. It is just started advising Gallaghers, the US giant, and already deals with Endesa in Spain and Gazprom, the world's biggest gas company, in Russia. | happen."

are understood to have been in favour of a hostile bid by Glaxo. However, the majority of fund managers have been lukewarm about the proposals and it became increasingly clear to Glaxo that the plan was becoming less viable. Shareholders have been concerned about the prospects for the combined group. The main fear has been that the gulf in management style and culture between Glaxo and SmithKline

was too wide to bridge the gap, even if there was a clear out of SmithKline's top executive team. A hostile bid could also have created up to £45bn of goodwill which would have depressed earnings for many years. "The deal is effectively dead. The institutions did not want it," said one City source. An institutional shareholder in Glaxo said: "There are

growing worries that without the co-operation of both management teams a merger would create severe practical difficulties that we don't want to discover a few years down the line."

Another fund manger said: 'We just want the two companies to get on with things as independent groups. Sometimes these things are not meant to

United launches £90m compensation claim after pulling out of Bangkok sewerage deal

UNITED Utilities yesterday ended its disastrous foray into the sewers of Bangkok by pulling out of a contract to modand launching a compensation claim to recover the £90m it has lost on the deal.

North West Water International (NWWI), UU's overeas arm, was awarded the £150m project in 1993 but quickly ran into trouble after the

new by-laws which slowed down work on the contract.

The company made a £7m provision against the contract in 1995 and then took a further £83m charge in 1997. Late last ernise the city's sewerage system year, work was halted on the scheme after the Bangkok authorities suspended further payments to NWWI.

UU said it was confident that it would not have to make any further provisions against the contract and disclosed that it intended to go to arbitration to Bangkok Metropolitan Au- recover its losses. It added that thority began to change the it had taken advice from senior specifications and introduce construction lawyers in the UK

and Thailand and was confident that it had a strong case.

The project involved building a waste treatment works and a 31-mile network of sewers under the Thai capital. But the Bangkok authorities increased the specifications, asking for a 24 per cent increase in the length of tunnelling and a tripling in the number of manholes. New city regulations were also passed which restricted construction work to a fourhour period each night and prevented any work which caused "noise, vibration or

Reuters directors must miss out on bonuses after failure to hit sales targets for dealing terminals

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

DIRECTORS at Reuters missed out on bonus payments last year because it failed to meet internal targets for installing its new dealing termi-

Total directors' remuneration for 1997 fell by 10 per cent as installations of the Series 3000 dealing systems only reached 28,000 after the first full year of sales against a target figure of 30,000. Bonuses were also affected after the group failed to achieve a 10 per cent growth Christopher Hogg, who re-

in earnings per share last year. signed from the group's remu-The details were included in Reuters' annual report which was published yesterday. It showed that five directors enjoyed pay increases of 6.8-17.7 per cent in a year when Reuters profits fell-by four per cent to

Peter Job, Reuters' chief exocutive, saw his basic salary increase by 17.7 per cent to £500,000, despite the absence of a bonus. In the previous year his pay was boosted by a £213,000 bonus to £651,000. Reuters chairman Sir

neration committee last month. saw his basic salary rise by 13.5 per cent to £185,000 last year.

Reuters has been under increased pressure following an investigation in the US over whether some of its employees stole data from its arch rival Bloomberg.

Reuters has said it has no knowledge of illegal activity. Rivals have said that the Reuters 3000 system has failed to prove itself in the battle against Bloomberg.

Reuters shares closed 11p higher at 643p.

STOCK MARKETS

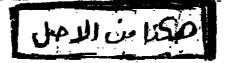
INTEREST RATES

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ISE 250	5250.80	22.80	0.44	5289.50	4384.20	2.99
SE 350	2767.40	36.30	1.33	2796.50	2075.70	3.22
SE All Share	2694.78	33.67	1.27	2720.99	2056_07	3.20
SE SmallCap	2490.10	8.00	0.32	2489.70	2182.10	281
SE Fledgilling	1362.30	3.70	0.27	1360.60	1225.20	3.17
SE AIM	1012.30	-0.80	-0.08	1135.50	965.90	1.02
W Jones	8531.02	85,94	1.02	8585.08	6356.78	1.64
khei	17131.97	283.42	1.68	20910.79	14488.21	0.89
ang Seng	10919.53	115.85	1.07	16820.31	7909 <u>.13</u>	3.51
X	4715.95	92.55	2.00	4782.84	3192.33	1.61

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uk. Us	5.69	0.13	5.81	-0.25	5.73	-0.80	6.02	-0.86
Japan	0.74	0.23	0.70	0.13	1.86	-0.69	2.50	-0.70
Germany	3.52	0.27	3.77	0.44	5.00	-0.67	5.59	-0.88
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Australia (dollars) Austria (schillings) Belgium (francs) Canada (\$) Cyprus (pounds) Denmark (kroner) Finland (markda) France (francs) Germany (marks) Greece (drachmel) Hong Kong (\$) Ireland (puncs)	2.3627 20.43 59.99 2.2640 0.8477 11.15 8.8955 9.73970 2.9166 460.91 12.29 1.1681	italy (lira) japan (yen) Maita (lira) Netherlands (guilders) Norway (kroner) Portugal (escudos) Spain (pesetas) South Africa (rand) Sweden (kroner) Switzerland (francs) Turkey (lira) USA (\$) Source: The Rates for indication pu	12.17 296.42 245.89 7.7884 12.91 2.3749 366,059 1.5989



changes hoardro



WARNER ON WHY CALLS FOR FIXED EXCHANGE RATES ARE UNDERSTANDABLE BUT MISGUIDED

pegged one to another, so that there could be no currency devaluation or appreciation unless agreed by all through a recognised cross border organisation like the In-

ternational Monetary Fund. Plainly your pound would continue to buy more in some places than in others (though presumably even prices would eventually become homogenised across the globe), but essentially your pound would be worth the same where ever you were. To all intents and purposes what we would have is a global single currency. Exchange rate risk would be eliminated and international trade would flourish. A perfect, and in business terms, utopian world then?

OK. So maybe not. Actually it wasn't that long ago that something quite similar to this did exist. The Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate accord, established immediately after the Second World War in an effort to prevent the competitive devaluations which helped phange the world into depression in the 1930s, prevailed for a surprisingly long time - nearly thirty years.

However, in so far as it ever worked as it was supposed to, this was because nearly all countries at that time had capital controls. The Bank of England maintained a staff of thousands to vet trade and foreign exchange transactions. It was a criminal offense to take more than £60 a head out of the country with you.

Bretton Woods eventually broke down because governments, including our own, refused to devalue despite the burgeoning

imagine a world where all currencies were trade deficits they were running. But it took whole hog and establishing a "currency a long time. Undoubtedly, it would have board". Mr Suharto's motives are always happened far sooner if capital had been allowed to slop around the world in the way it does today.

One of the lessons of the economic crisis in the Far East, and indeed of our own membership of the European Exchange Rate mechanism, is that you cannot successfully combine a fixed exchange rate system with one that allows the free flow of capital. Inevitably the one will be trounced by the other.

Comparing the one system against the other, in terms of its ability to create opportunities for trade, growth and prosperity, there seems to be no contest. Today's global capital markets are infinitely more efficient in the way they allocate capital to economic ends, facilitate cross border trade in goods and services, and generally enhance living standards, than the alternative of fixed exchange rates combined with national capital controls.

So why is it that some policy makers, particularly in the Far East, are talking in lively anticipation once more about the possibility of reviving some kind of international fixed exchange rate system? The attachment of the fringe, Pacific Rim economies, to fixed exchange rates is well

Despite everything that has happened, President Suharto of Indonesia, still talks merrily about re establishing his peg against the US dollar. To make the peg more credible than it was, he now proposes going the

suspect, and no more so than in this instance. If he were able to fix at a relatively high rate against the dollar, he and his family might find it easier to disentangle themselves from their own personal foreign currency debts, even though the wider economic consequences of such a move might be disastrous.

Dealing with extremes of market behaviour

The tin pot dictators of the Far East are one thing, and perhaps don't deserve to be taken seriously. Japanese policy makers are quite another. This week, Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice minister of finance for international affairs, has also been sounding off about the need for some kind of global fixed exchange rate system. Known as "Mr Yen" because of the power of his comments in foreign exchange markets. Mr Sakakibara said the time might be right to reintroduce something along the lines of Bretton

Later in the week be appeared to expand on this by suggesting that national currencies should peg or benchmark themselves against the world's three major regional currencies - in the Far East against the Yen, in Europe against the Euro and in the Americas against the US dollar.

One variation of this central idea, which Mr Sakakibara has also aired in the past, s that the regions would have their own international safety organisations - their own versions of the IMF - which because they would be closer and more in tune with their own regions, could apply more appropriate programmes of action and international

aid to crisis torn countries than the IMF both fed the boom on the way up and comdoes. The three main currencies would meanwhile trade against each other within quite restricted target zones, enforced by central bankers and the international organisations. In other words, a global fixed exchange rate system.

Mr Sakakibara's precise relationship with the Japanese Government has never been entirely clear. He's plainly well informed about policy in Japan but he's not always representative of it and his views are often his own. Even so, there may be some sympathy for what he's saying on these issues, both within the Japanese Ministry of Finance and among Japanese political leaders. Certainly his view that the crisis in the Far East is one of global capitalism, and not as the IMF implies with its reforms, one of the Asian economic model, is widely shared across the region.

It's not hard to see why. The immediate cause of the crisis was a sudden and violent flight of foreign capital. In the West, there hasn't been anything comparable since the crash of 1929 - an extraordinary collapse in asset values caused by an abrupt recvaluation by international capital of an economic and corporate system that just months previously had been regarded as superior to the West.

We've no recent experience in the West of these extremes of market behaviour. It's easy for us to depict the crisis as one of crony capitalism, bad and corrupt government, inadequate regulation and a fragile banking system, but it was our Western capital that

pounded the bust on the way down. Even as foreign capital has fled the region, the corporate West has moved in to take advantage of fire sale prices with significant direct investment. No wonder Malaysia's Mahathir fulminates about a Western capitalist conspiracy to recolonise his country. No wonder the nationalistic backlash across the region.

And no wonder that fixed exchange rates are seen in the East as a panacea. Nor should we immediately condemn this proposed policy response as claptrap. The idea may be misguided, but it is also understandable. One of the consequences of globalisation, rapid advances in information technology, and deregulation of markets is that the international financial system has expanded at a pace far faster than either GDP or trade. This in itself has tended to enhance the extremes of behaviour in markets and increased the risk of systemic

It is obviously appropriate, therefore, for policy makers to explore ways of limiting these extremes. The markets aren't always right. They exaggerate both on the way up and on the way down, with often disastrous economic and social consequences. But love them or loath them, they have become the way of the world. Fixed exchange rates aren't the way. The solution lies rather in greater transparency and supervision, and, ofcourse in appropriate macro economic policy. Persuading Indonesia, Malaysia, or even Japan, of this is another thing entirely.

Liberty marks new era with changes in the boardroom

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

LIBERTY, the retail group whose entire board was ousted in a shareholder coup last year, attempted to draw a line under its recent problems vesterday when it announced a

COURTS, the furniture retailer, turned the tables on its rivals yesterday when it reported surging sales just days after MFL DFS and Carpetright had warned of severe slowdowns. Courts said sales in its twomonth winter sale period to the end of February were up by 28.6 per cent. Sales in January were up by 38 per cent.

Elsewhere, John Lewis, the department store group, said it had found the going tougher in some areas of furnishings. Sales in the week to 28 February were up by just 3 per cent on the same week last year.

confirmed that it has shelved plans to spend £40m on re-developing its flagship store in Regent Street, central London.

Michele Jobling, a former marketing manager of the Tampax brand, has been appointed as managing director. Brian Muirhead, previously finance dealership, is the new finance director.

Liberty also named two new non-executive directors. They are David Malpas, the former deputy chairman of Tesco, and Victor Benjamin, chairman of Lex Service and also a former Tesco director.

Philip Bowman, the new chairman, said: "What we have done is draw a line under all the events of the past year. It is an end of one chapter and we are now looking into the future." In spite of a profits warning

last month, Mr Bowman said be saw the group remaining independent and added that he had received no approaches.



Liberty has shelved plans for a £40m redevelopment of its flagship store in Regent Street, central London

He said initial costs and professional fees relating to the plans of the previous management to re-develop the store would result in an exceptional charge of £8m-£10m in the company's current year accounts. This will cause a delay

in the company's results which were due in late April." Mr Bowman said the re-development would only have

increased the value of the site to raise funds for investment. by £13m-£15m. He admitted the store required investment but would not be drawn on the

The company plans to look at how best to utilise its property assets which, in addition to the Regent Street store, includes a wholesale building and 15 shops in Fouberts Place. It is possible these could be sold

Mr Bowman gave few details on the group's new strategy but said the Liberty brand could be developed in countries in the Middle East and Latin America.

Liberty was at the centre of a bitter battle last year when the founding Stewart-Liberty family ousted the existing management led by Denis Cassidy.

Liberty is being sued by two former directors, Ian Thompson and Andrew Garety, for compensation for loss of office. There has been no settlement with Mr Cassidy though this is not the subject of

legal proceedings. Société Générale has been named as Liberty's financial adviser and may also act as the group's broker.

drops to 4.6 per cent

US unemployment rate

THE number of new non-farm jobs in the US surged by 310,000 last month, about 60,000 more than analysts had expected. There were job gains in every sector bar manufacturing and the unemployment rate dropped from 4.7 to 4.6 per cent, matching a 25-year low. Average hourly earnings jumped 0.6 per cent, taking their year-on-year growth to 4.1 per cent. The financial markets shrugged off concern about inflationary pressures, partly because the Bureau of Labor Statistics said the 8 cent rise to \$12.60 (£7.64) an hour might be a statistical quirk. Even so, some analysts think the Federal Reserve might yet have to increase interest rates.

Transworld woos Healthcall

TRANSWORLD of the US has approached Healthcall, the UK healthcare-services provider, with a possible bid of £58.5m, which would be a 16.7 per cent premium over an earlier offer by the company's management. Transworld said it would make a further announcement "as soon as practicable". Healthcall, which provides care-in-the-home services for the action. HCMS, a company set up by the management to buy Healthcall, last month offered £50.1m.

Glasgow gets jobs boost

AN AMERICAN company yesterday announced plans to build a call centre in Glasgow, bringing 500 new jobs to the city. The move by TeleTech, which manages telephone, Internet and PC-based video inquiries for its clients, is the latest company to set up a telephone-based operation in Scotland.

Royal's NZ acquisitions

ROYAL & Sun Alliance has bought two New Zealand businesses from Norwich Union for £53.7m. The acquisition of Norwich Union Life Insurance (NZ) and Norwich Union Investment Management (NZ), makes the company one of the top five life insurance and superannuation firms in New Zealand with assets under management in excess of £535m.

Energy chief urges caution

ENERGY Group held back from recommending either of two rival offers from US groups yesterday until more details were available and intentions "finally clarified." The latest offers are pitched at 820p per share from PacifiCorp, which has passed all regulatory hurdles, and at 840p from Texas Utilities, which has yet to get a green light in Britain or the US. "In view of the fact that the intentions of PacifiCorp and Texas Utilities have not been finally clarified, your board has not recommended either of these increased offers," Derek Bonham, Energy Group chairman, told shareholders yesterday.

COMPANY RESULTS Turnover £ Pre-tax £ EPS \$17.5m(10.4m) \$0.501m(-0.414m) \$2.0c (28c) -(-) Gragge (F) 365.9m (238.5m) 16.02m (15.67m) 121.1p (95.6p) 37p (32p) tapandent Energy (f) 22.7m (2.7m) -0 464m (-0.597m) -2.8p (-4.5p) -(-) 78.31m (88.82m) 8.35m (7.29m) 21.4p (18.0p) 8.15p (8.94p) Lithe Stuplies (F) 0.5m (0.3m) 2.6p (1.4p) 2.5p (1.2p)

Indonesia warned against any backsliding

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

The US vesterday insisted the Indonesian government must implement its reform programme as the country's regime stepped up its brinkmanship with the West and with the International Monetary Fund. Robert Rubin, US Treasury

Secretary, said Indonesia must adhere to the terms of its IMF reform programme to restore confidence in the economy. "The key is always with Indonesia ... that there be sustained implementation of the reform programme. That is the path for dealing with the problems in the economy and recovering confidence," Mr

Rubin said. The rest of the world might not think much of Indonesia's plan to create a currency board to stabilise its plan was to be implemented saved the rupiah from one its worst one-day falls, which at one point took its value down by more than 15 per cent.

By the time trading closed the rupiah had recovered most of the ground lost during the day, producing a fall of less than 1 per cent. Local investors see the creation of a currency board and the pegging of the rupiah to the US dollar as the only way to stop the freefall which has caused the local currency to lose almost 76 per cent of its value since last July.

Although local investors like the idea of a currency board, it is opposed by the IMF, which is presiding over a currency but-rumours that the \$43bn (£26bn) bail-out. Yesterday there were fresh rumours that the IMF would delay release of the second \$3bn tranche of the bail-out because of dissatisfaction with the government's implementation

of IMF-imposed reforms. Finance Minister Marie Muhammad said he remained optimistic the payment would be forthcoming, insisting any differences in interpretation of the reform programme would be resolved soon.

His optimism contrasted with that of most other sources. The Americans, for example, are reported to be dissatisfied with the outcome of a mission headed by Walter Mondale which had sought to persuade Indonesia of the need to implement the programme and ditch the currency-board plan. A US official was quoted as saying results of the mission were "certainly less than we had hoped for" and Mr Rubin said only that the discussions were a "useful process". Britain has also been pushing Indonesia to follow the

Derek Fatchett, junior Foreign Office minister, met President Suharto on Wednesday, carrying the same message as Mr Mondale and appeared to have received the same noncommittal response.

IMF prescriptions.

White-collar staff feel the force of flexible working patterns

The trend towards "flexible" working patterns will become more pronounced amongst white-collar workers such as managers and professionals, according to a new report, writes Diane Coyle.

An analysis of figures for 1996 shows fixed-term contracts and other forms of temporary work have become more widespread this decade in research jobs and education as well as industries like catering normally associated with job insecurity. According to Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research, the proportion of people working on a temporary contract in research and development

climbed from 13.4 per cent in 1992 to 16.0 per cent in 1996. For education the proportion rose from 13.2 to 16.9 per cent. These figures mean such

arrangements are already more common in these fields than in catering, healthcare or other personal services, even though the number of people involved is smaller. Fixed-term contracts have made particular headway in teaching, applying to nearly one in five teachers. But one in 10 science and engineering professionals also has a fixed contract, and they spread particularly rapidly, from a small base, among health professionals.

WHO'S SUING WHO

IOHN WILLCOCK



Hat Trick Productions, the independent makers of such TV hits as "Have I Got News For You" and "Drop the Dead Donkey" are suing the owners of a pub in Hackney which has named itself after their award-winning

connecty show "Father Ted". Hat Trick, run by joint managing directors Jimmy Mulville and Denise O'Donoghue, have been trying without success to contact the owners of "Father Teds" in Kingsland High Street, Hackney, in London's East End, since last summer.

The writ names the pub's owners as Barry John Burke, Timothy Doyle and Factsceen Limited, the latter a company whose registered office is in Windsor, Berk-

Hat Trick are calling for an injunction to restrain the defendants from "passing off themselves or any business of theirs as being connected or associated in any way with the Plaintiff by use of the name 'Father Ted', 'Father Teds' or otherwise howsowever." The TV company, based in Finchley

Road, London, is also demanding that the pub hand over "all signs, materials, literature and other items" relevant to the

Sovereign Unit Trust Managers, which is owned by the mutual Teachers Assurance Group, has issued a writ against Phillips & Drew Fund Managers, NatWest Bank, Bankers Trustee Company and Knox Cropper, in a dispute over fund management

The writ concerns Sovereign's eight unit trusts. Last July the investment regulator IMRO fined Sovereign £225,000 over failures in its internal organisation, for incorrectly pricing the eight trusts for more than a year, and for allowing three of its unit trusts to pay fees Sovereign should have paid it-

In May 1996 Sovereign paid £1.4 million compensation for the errors to its 40,000 in-

Now Sovereign's writ is claiming an in-

demnity in respect of the payments made by Sovereign to the unit holders of all eight of the funds. It claims that PDFM made "wrongful payment of certain fees and charges... from the assets of the said funds, namely the First Defendant's investment management fees, the First Defendant's overseas administration charges and the First Defendant's advisory fees."

NatWest, Bankers Trustee Company and Knox Cropper, a firm of chartered accountants, are joined in the writ for their role

in allowing these payments to go to PDFM. A spokesman for Sovereign, based in Bournemouth, Dorset, said yesterday: "This is a protective writ which we had to lodge to keep our options open, before time runs out on the issue. It is concerning work (the defendants) did for the Sovereign funds which we were not happy with."

The spokesman added that Sovereign is no longer working with PDFM or Bankers Trustee Company, but is still working with Knox Cropper.

"The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford, acting through their delegates (trading as Oxford University Press)" are suing The Decca Record Company over a version of Boris Godunov, the opera by Modest Mussorgsky.

Oxford publishes an original version of the opera prepared in the 1960s by David Lloyd-Jones. The University now accuses Decca of having filmed a performance of the Lloyd-Jones version and of importing videos of this version from Holland, thus in-

fringing Oxford's copyright. The writs adds: "The Plaintiff's Director of Music and Bibles Publishing discovered a copy of the film on video for sale in Italy in November 1993."

Oxford is calling for an injunction stopping Decca from selling these videos in the UK, toegether with damages of up to

Two racecourses, Plumpton and Fontwell. are suing their former managing agent, Cliff Griggs, in a row over fees. Fontwell Pa Steeplechase Plc and The Plumpton Rac course Plc have issued writs for damag against Mr Griggs, who trades as Pratt Co and who stopped working for them

The two writs were issued by Fors Saunders Kerman, a firm of solicitors has in London. Andy Kerman, a member of t family which controlled both racecourses (til Plumpton was sold recently, is a me ber of the law firm.

The racecourses are damanding dama; for breach of contract and for "fraudule misrepresentation by the Defendant or. and in writing on divers occasions..."

The writs also demand the return "money paid by the Plaintiff to the defi dant under a mistake of fact as to what su were properly chargeable to the Plaintiff

the Defendant...' The racecourse owners also deman complete account of the money paid to

Next suits City with a smart recovery

MARKET REPORT



if modest, recovery. The shares rallied 41p to 753p as Stanley, long time fans of the group, dismissed the bear stories which have swirled around the stock market and upgraded its recommendation to "strong buy".

At one time the price was up 67p. It slipped back in the profits warning". last 30 minutes. The shares started the week at 825p.

Analyst Peter Brockwell said the market "had grown increasingly alarmed by what amounts to scare mongering and has lost touch with the fundamentals of the compa-

Rumours questioned the health of chief executive David Jones, the man responsible for rescuing Next when it seemed destined for the corporate graveyard. They also claimed there were problems with the chain's

threadbare week with a smart, A fit Da vid Jones has told in-figures. quirers he is prepared to . GUS has, of course, alightinvestment house Morgan of golf and Mr Brockwell strike on Argos, the catasaid the Next chief executive "is very well and is mystified by persistent reports of his ill health in the City".

The analyst said he was there is no requirement for a

He pointed to the group's Christmas trading report when it said sales had gone well and said autumn/winter spring range was in the shops in January. The signalled departure

of chairman Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, who is also chairman of Great Universal Stores, was interpreted as diminishing the chance of a GUS take over strike.

Last month Next shares hit an 835p peak. When disaster appeared inevitable at the

Next, the retailer, ended a warning was being prepared. 13.5p having fallen into single

challenge them to two rounds ed with a hostile 570p a share logue stores chain. Argos slipped 3p to 606p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said sell. The investment house believes there is little chance of "firmly of the opinion that a white knight appearing and the hid could be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers

The market ended a three day losing patch in some style with Footsic recovering 87.3 stocks had been cleared. The points to 5,782.9. The mid and small cap indices put on positive displays.

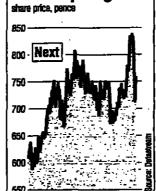
> group, led the blue chip surge, up 140p at 2,370p. Take over talk was, of course, in the air but its year's results, due next week, probably provided the main impetus. Profits are expected to emerge at £265m against £238.7m with the dividend increased by 3p to 23p.

Schroders, the investment

made headway with Halifax up 14p to 937p and Prudential Corporation 28.5p to 898.5p.

Rolls-Royce continued to fly on its results, climbing a further 15.25p to 267.75p and British Aerospace rose 54p to 1,932p in sympathy. Panmure Gordon is cautious about Rolls projected progress and regards the shares as a sell.

Share Spotlight



Jarvis, the rail mainte- Thursday's reference to the nance group shunted along at MMC, gaining 23.5p to 4.75p three years ago, came 539.5p. But BT gave further within a whisker of 600p, clos-ground, off 3p to 589p. ing at 596p.

Colt Telecom enjoyed another busy line with a 65p gain to 1,335p.

SmithKline Beecham was a share takeover bid. Healthagain active, improving 28p to 808p as bid hopes persisted. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell see the shares going to 1,100p. Glaxo Wellcome put on 34p at 1,656p.

Bass, the brewer and hotelier, frothed up 10p to 1,000p as Lehman Brothers raised its target price to 1,200p following the take over of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts. its this year are expected to be Morgan Stanley's forecast of 625p for Allied Domecq had year's £38.3m. no immediate impressing with the shares falling 8p to 562p. The end of Pearson's tor-

mented ownership of consumer software publisher Mindscape pushed the shares TAKING STOCK

£6.6m next

Barcom, a plant hire group,

advanced 19.5p to 68.5p after GE Capital, the US group,

emerged with an agreed 72p

call moved forward 13.5p as Transworld Healthcare sig-

£140m swoop for Great West-

em, the railway, gave the

shares a 34.5p push to 308p.

land-based brewer and hote-

lier, fell 6p to 229p, a shade

above its 12 month low. Prof-

around £40.7m against last

Prime People, the recruit-

ment group, put on a further

2.25p to 13.75p ahead of next

week's figures and Rage Soft-

ware, continued to draw sup-

FirstGroup's controversial

Vaux Group, the Sunder-

nalled a 105p offer.

Dealings are due to start on the fringe Ofex share market on Monday in Advance Digital Communications, latest offering from the Ruegg & Co. investment house. Shares were sold at 20p giving a capitlisation of £7m. The offer was heavily oversubscribed, ADC, started in 1982, specialises in visual communications for corporate events. "Illustrative financial projections" suggests profits of £2.1m this year and

Graham, the builders merchant, should lift profits from £21.3m to £27.5m this year and produce £35m next year, believe stockbroker Albert E Sharp. The shares firmed to 177p. They were floated at 183p four years ago. Since then the price has touched 217p and been as low as 119p. The analyst Robert Griffiths is keen on the shares but believes the group is unlikely to be a prime takeover target in any industry consolidation.

They also clain roblems with	med there were an 835p peak. When dis the chain's appeared inevitable at and a profits end of 1990 they close	aster against £238.7m with the div- the idend increased by 3p to 23p.		Mindscape pushed the shares up 24p to 943p. Vodafone recovered from	port on talk of a new computer game, gaining 1.25p to 10.5p.	group is unlikely to be a prime takeover target in any industry consolidation.
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
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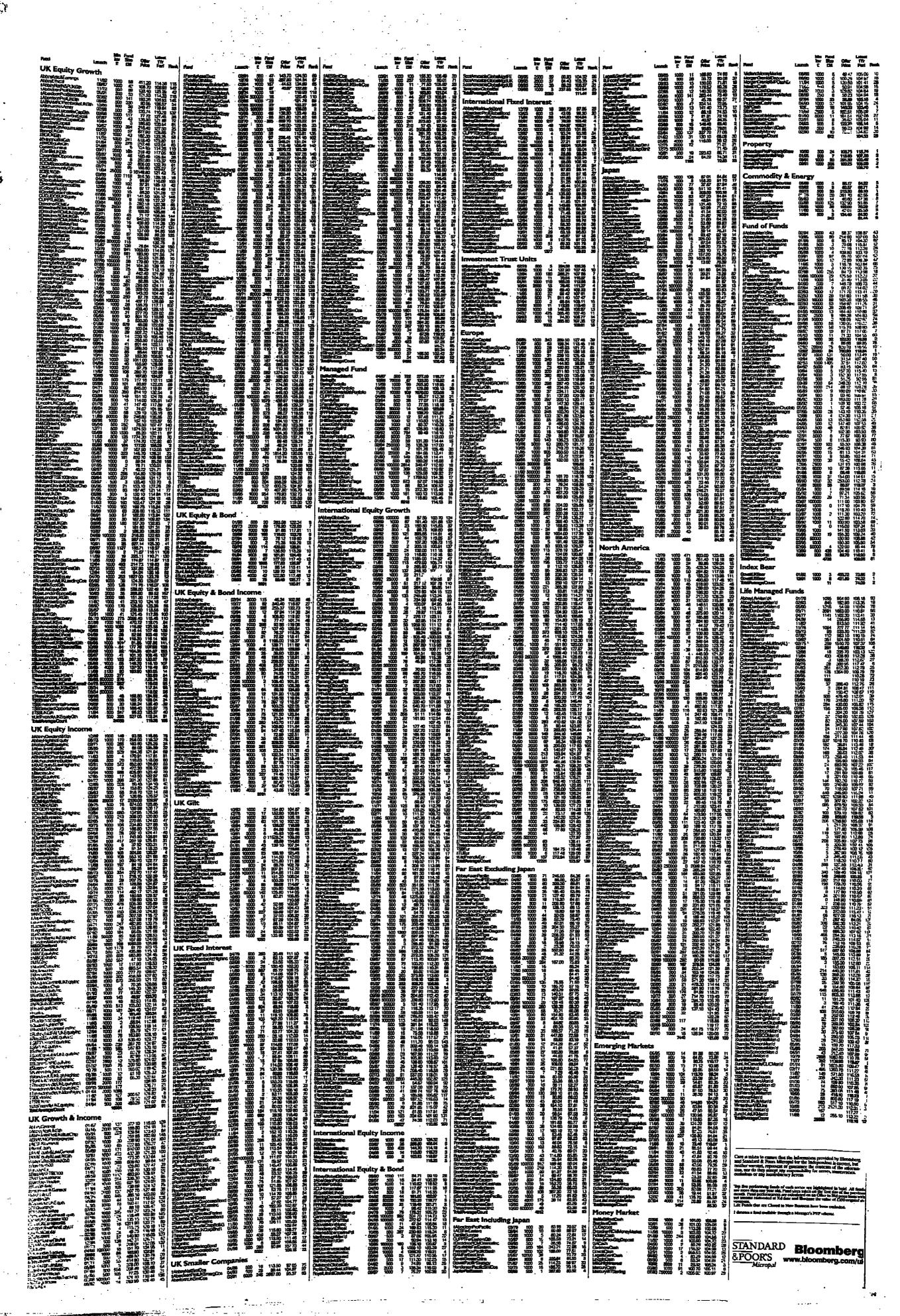
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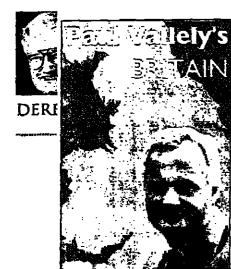
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Name Taking on the die-hard flat caps



Place: Barnsley

It may be a grim town, poor of pocket and health, but it has a young Labour council leader who is way ahead of Tony Blair in transforming local government

IT IS EASY to take the mickey out of Barnsley. People have been doing of leaders in partnerships which init for years. There is, in Yorkshire, the legendary story of Gilbert Gray QC who was representing a working man from the town before a judge of particular pomposity who, at one point snootily interjected: "I take it, Mr Gray, that your client is familiar rately reflect the makeup of the loheads Mr Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek with the maxim: Quis custodiet ipsos tooholic Ber at Management of the Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, that your client is familiar in Low Speek Mr. Gray, the Low Speek Mr ethnic minorities. Burnisher Disponded the QC drily. "In Barnsley 1 Se Design they speak of little else."
175 Garmonage they speak of little else."
170 Habitan Cal No one in Barnsley, of course,

unks, Merch could be expected to understand the game here. Just over a year ago, the 1 388 Case Bros Latin for "Who polices the police-5 306 Gerrard Gp 1 Hambres men?" For Barnsley is stereotypically 8 40 Rea Bros a grim town of flat caps, whippets and 1 200 Strodes N 1 MB Schools Opigeon lofts which was last year described in one report as the poorest rates, Recail town in Britain. Until recently, Ather Na Barnsley was bottom of the nation-202 AB AB and returned table for the amount of govern202 But of returned table for the amount of govern202 But of seed ment money going to the local
203 Harden and 150 Harden and 150 Harden and 150 Harden But of the league for
204 Harden But one-term illnesses—the legacy of the
205 But its Sicon but of the seed of the Sentented lung-diseases of mining.

It is also in the heart of the Soewaries Put ialist Republic of South Yorkshire. 1234 Bear - Artist Republic of South Totasine. o cyce hel and the been in hower here since to company to the company of the comp

In history
freedate cosed that local councils should be freedate cosed that local councils should be freedate cosed that local councils should be freed to be directly elected Big Name Ramodes Frayors who will appoint cabinets to Regard loss countils with the rest of the countils of the ciliors acting as backbenchers to pagerutinise this powerful new execuwas coive. He wants councils to ditch the iding/Consdea that they control and run the

place and instead to adopt the role volve local business, schools and colleges, health trusts, the police and voluntary and community groups. He wants councils to transform themselves from bodies of middle-aged men into groups which more accucal population with far more young people, women and members of

But hang on. For backward old Barnsley is actually well ahead of the controlling Labour group elected their youngest member, Steve Houghton, then only 38, as its leader. He began a Blairite transformation of the town six months before Mr Blair himself took office.

get for next year. There, in a coun- worst suspicions. cil chamber panelled with handsome cal executive.

For two hours, the council's 63 council's activities. Labour members, indulged them- But his was a voice in the wilderselves in a round of puerile party po-ness (partly because the arrangelitical mockery, thick with "thees" and ments were too cosy for many of the thanks to Mr Houghton.

"that is the establishment town's key figures, and partly because "In Education, we're trying to first of a Business Development Agency three opposition councillors (one Mr Brown held deeply politically in out why the results at the [tertiany] as a private company in partnership



Houghton has a long way to go, as too scared of the electors to call was evident last Thursday at the themselves Tories). The session council meeting to approve the bud- would have confirmed all Tony Blair's

There have been revolts against walnut veneers and surrounded by the excesses of the one-party state in fluted columns in oak topped with Barnsley before. At the end of the gilded Corinthian capitals, the wor- Eighties, one disaffected Labour thies of Barusley gathered in their councillor set up the Barusley Party antique dignity. Chaired by the may- protesting that Labour's incestuous or in red robes, white ruff and relations with local government heavy gold chain, the council went unions meant that council employthrough the charade of debating ees were, in effect, running the measures that had already been place. Jack Brown also objected to agreed by the town's real decision- party members packing the Tenants makers, the Labour group's politi- and Residents' Associations which ought to have been a check on the

lobbies in the party). "What Blair is doing is what we advocated in the Eighties but everybody said it was too idealistic," said Mr Brown this week.

Sitting in the leader's office, Steve Houghton diplomatically declined to pick up on the references to the now defunct Barnsley Party. There is still a deal of resentment against Mr Brown among Mr Houghton's older colleagues. Instead, the young leader turned his attention to Tony Blair's pamphlet - which, with com-mendable Yorkshire frugality, he had in a photocopy (the 22-page booklet costs £4.99 in its original form). The "partnerships" that the Prime Minister proposes - on crime, education and economic regenera-tion - aiready flourish in Barnsley, thanks to Mr Houghton.

poor," he said. Only 28 per cent of in the town, compared with an national average of 44 per cent. As well as bringing together all levels of education, and local businesses, Mr Houghton wrote to parents to ask

back and volunteered to join in. "It's a radical change," said Alan Sherriff, one of the businessmen involved who is also chairman of the local hospital trust. "He is bringing people together without a pre-set agenda. I think we're making real progress on both education and on beginning to nurture the entrepreneurial culture the town has always

pupils pass GCSEs at grades A to C on the board have gone to the pri-cluded disarmingly. vate sector," said Roger Nunns, the Less party politics is what Alan chamber's chief executive. "He has Sherriff wants too. "The politicians had a very hard job persuading the will never agree," he said. "If they deold guard on the council to accept it. politicise politics they will destroy Many of the die-bards would like to their power base. But they could try them to get involved; cynics were revert to the old ways of command and change the tone, so that skills dumbfounded when 6,000 wrote and control."

Mr Houghton himself is sanfluence," he said.

TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

Breaking the mould: Stepher Houghton, 38, leader of Barnsley council for just over a year, is working to unite the town on education, economic regeneration and crime. He is bringing people together without a set agenda,' says one husinessman

Photograph: John Houlihan/Guzelia

er who has been the dynamo behind finding premises for a pre-school playgroup in the village of Cawthorne. She has managed to squeeze in - be-tween her childcare and her evening job as a telephone banker with First Direct in Leeds - an impressive catalogue of fund-raising, lobbying and work on planning permission.

By the school gates, I asked would she ever think of becoming a councillor. She said she has not the time, but Mr Blair wants councils to abolish many of their time-wasting committees. She said the politics would put her off, but Mr Blair insists that "councils need to avoid getting trapped in the secret world of the caucus and the party group". Perhaps, then, she said, she might: "I've got the background, the and others. "Sixty per cent of the seats know they needed me," she con-

rather than ideology dominate."

Such issues will now become matguine: "We cede control but gain in- ters of great debate even among the ence," he said.

"Going back to the idea of 'give "New Labour is the lesser of two us more money and we'll do every- evils," concluded Jack Brown, who thing' is not an option," he told fel- now styles himself a Christian comlow councillors in the budget munist. "But not all Blair's ideas are meeting. At the end of his speech he sound. The notion of an elected was applauded - vehemently by mayor, for instance, might produce some, but only politely by the kind of councillor the Prime Winister wrong man it would be a passport to hopes to replace with new blood.

What Tony Blaff wints is women to the prime with new blood.

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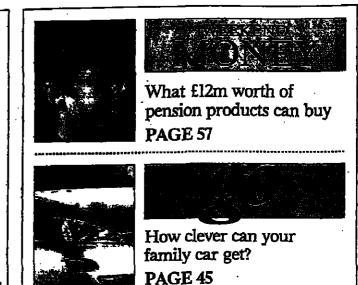


PULP FRICTION

When actress Lorraine Bracco dumped Harvey Keitel, it made him mad. And the incendiary star of Reservoir Dogs and Mean Streets is not a man you want to make mad.

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THE TIMES S

WINNING

SMILE

Banging the

drum for

Torquay

PAGE 36

MARCH 7 1998 PLAYERS URGED TO IGNORE WOODWARD ULTIMATUM Clubs push England to the brink

By David Hands AND MARK SOUSTER

in tennier of

March Testier

ENGLISH rugby stands on the brink of a rupture the long-term consequences of which can only be imagined. The Rugby Football Union (RFU), the governing body of the game in England, has presented an ultimatum to its 12 leading clubs and, if no compromise is reached over the weekend, there is the real possibility of the most famous clubs in the country being expelled from the union.

The clubs, among them Bath, Wasps and Leicester, met in London yesterday and emerged united in their view that England should not tour the southern hemisphere this summer. If they hold that position, their players have already been told they will not be considered for international rugby as from Monday and their employers, the clubs, will be deemed to be in breach of International Rugby Board (IRB) regulations

The expulsion of clubs could not be accomplished at the drop of a hat, but the officials are bracing themselves for such a decision. They believe that Cliff Brittle. chairman of the RFU manage ment board, and Fran Cotton, his vice-chairman, seek to break the power of the clubs as a means of securing their assets, the leading players, on RFU contracts.

The whole sorry affair is the climax to a festering disagreement that has dogged English rugby since the game went professional in August 1995. A year ago both sides believed that a better relationship could be developed and, as recently as last autumn, Brittle said that the two sides had never been closer. However, the announcement since then of Cotton's vision of the future of the game in England shat-

tered the fragile peace. That vision, the clubs contend, would lead to their eventual contraction and, to reinforce the point, they have rejected overtures made by Brittle this week that would restore them to European competition next season. Those overtures, they claim, would leave them with only four Premiership games before Christmas next season while in the next season, thanks to the 1999 World Cup. domestic rugby would begin in February 2000.

That the issue that has brought matters to a head this week has been the RFU demands upon the leading players and the withdrawal by Northampton of players such as Tim Rodber and Paul Grayson from the scheduled tour to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa in June is almost coincidental. If it had not been that issue, it would have been another and Keith Burwell, the Northampton



Man in the middle: Dallaglio, like all the England players, is caught in the struggle between the clubs and the RFU for control of the game. Photograph: Marc Aspland. Shirts from Allsports

owner, now has the "bloody punch-up" that he thought would be required before the air cleared.

All 12 clubs stand together. "I have never known everyone so rock solid," Donald Kerr. chairman of English First Division Rugby (EFDR), said. "We protested about this tour some time ago, about England playing four tests and three quasi-tests after a long hard domestic season but we were

internationals outside the Five Nations Championship over the five years of the agreement. If the summer tour goes ahead, England will have played eight within the first

two years.

After their meeting the clubs confirmed their support for international rugby and their desire to honour existing release agreements on their players, "In the interests of the

'It is amazing that we can avert war with Iraq but cannot sort out rugby

Lawrence Dallaglio, page 41

given the same lame excuse about the RFU's contractual obligations."

The Times understands that contracts with the host unions in the southern hemisphere were signed little more. than two months ago and the terms of the RFU's agreement with BSkyB, the satellite television station that is part-owned by News International, owner of The Times, only

players' welfare, the RFU should reconsider the southern hemisphere tour proposed this summer," they said. The clubs will meet their players next week to explain the stance they have taken.

They described the ultimaturn given to the England training squad on Wednesday by Clive Woodward, the national coach, as provocative. Woodward asked the players

requires England to play 12 to decide on their availability day or forfeit international places for the remainder of the Five Nations this season. Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, said yesterday he was committed to the tour but denied that he had come to any long-term agreement with the RFU. The players are stuck in the middle of a situation over which they have little real control.

'We believe that a summer's rest will be the best preparation for England in their endeavours to win the World Cup in 1999," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said. The RFU believes it is in the right legally and has suggested that many first division club contracts have not been registered with them, as IRB regulations require: All contracts have to be approved by the union and must include their unrestricted release for international duty.

There seems little prospect of any movement by either side over the weekend, though the union has called a press conference for Monday morning.

QUESTIONS OF LOYALTY

Q. Will England field a first-choic against Scotland on March 22?

A. Not as things stand.

A. If the players refuse to commit themselves on Monday to England's summer tour of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, coach Clive Woodward has said that he will not consider

Q. Why won't the players commit themselves? A. Because the clubs, their employers, are advising them not to. They want them to rest.

Q. Why do the clubs want them to rest? A. Because the players are wanted for too many games. Rugby is the most physically demanding of team sports and leading players have been going non-stop for nearly two years.

Q. Why does Woodward want them to play?

A. Because his employers, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), see such tours as a means to improve England's play.

Q. Who will play for England against Scotland? A. Players from outside the top division - effectively a fifth string team.

Q. What happens now?

A. Nobody knows. This looks like the endgame of the 30month struggle for control between the owners of the leading professional clubs and the traditional ruling body, the RFU.

THINK

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Driven beyond endurance by the Shearer papers

t the publishing office of Hamish Machinot on Tuesday morning, copy MacHoot on Tuesday in Stiting down editor Jeremy Tadpole was stiting down to his daily grind, proof-reading the latest autobiography of Alan Shearer. Blah, blah, blah, he said briskly to himself, as a mental limbering up exercise. Ahem. Rhubarb, rhubarb rhubarb.

Shearer's style was proving a bit of a challenge for a depressive narcoleptic like Tadpole in publishing circles, they would call it Henry James without the roller-coaster of the Part Tadpole and the publishing the language with the countries. effect. But Tadpale was not to be outdone. He drained his triple espresso, stretched his eyes, cracked his knuckles, sponged the back of his

Brazil are the world champions. They are the team everyone has to catch. They are in that position because they have carned the right to be there. We need to keep ticking over, to get the right results ...

Tadpole woke with a start, his forehead in a knew training would be tough," he read, with a sinking heart. "I have never even seen any of pool of dribble. This was always happening. He'd been reading page 14 now for six weeks and it was becoming clear that absolutely nothing could keep him awake. Just yesterday, Boomer MacHoot had entered the room to find Tadpole nodding soundly over

his desk, despite the sewing needles he'd placed under the skin of his fingertips and the wire with which he'd ingeniously attached the needies to a series of battery packs.

boomed 'Assah," Tadpole screamed. "Good man, Tadpole. We're relying on you."

'Aasah, thank you, sir. Asah." Now Tadpole flicked through the pages ahead, searching randomly for sensation of any sort. He was building up to a decision. "We

these supposed social drugs." "My leg hurt for quite some time." He stood up, opened the office window and climbed out. It was cold on the windy ledge; beneath him the grimy traffic roared and honked. This was an

extreme measure, but effective. Adrenalin coursed through Tadpole and he felt more awake than he could ever remember. Afterwards, Boomer MacHoot

Sensing a problem, Maci-loot had thrown a glass of water over him.

"Still reading the Shearer, Jeremy?" he'd fathom Tadpole," he told them. "Saw in the paper Alan Shearer supposed to have been in a fight in Dublin. A fight! Then the phone rings from Shearer's people, saying ignore it, nothing in it. Still, what a turn up! Naturally, I dashed in to Tadpole to give him the news.

'Shearer's done something interesting!' I call,

"But funny thing, Tadpole isn't there,
"He's outside, for heaven's sake. Outside the window. He hasn't heard me. So I bang on the glass. 'Shearer?' I yell. 'News! Interesting!' He gives me a pained, puzzled expression. His Wallace and Gromit tie flaps frenziedly against his ear. 'Interesting?' he mouths at me, incredulous. Yes, very interesting,' I assure

"So he starts to climb back in and I keep talking, you know, the way you do. 'Of course, Shearer's denying it,' I say, leaning out and offering my hand. 'Everyone's saying nothing happened, so no need to change the book."
"Which is when he just looks at me one last

time, closes his eyes, lets go of my hand and drops off the building. Tragic waste, really," MacHoot says, gath-

ering Tadpole's papers.

"Had Tadpole all lined up for David Platt's Bumper Book of Old Truisms after this. And now he'll never know."

2/1 neck and began.

15

At least you

get picked

for the team

Makes you want to hold your nose

on time this year and the usual stragglers are hanging about the jetty. The bo'sun is always on the look-out for people who can make the journey that bit more interesting and he may have found a proper little mate in a woman by the name of Pilling, who represents the Football Supporters' Association.

Now, for all I know, Pilling may be a good sort, and a splendid turn at the Christmas panto, if such an august body ever lowers its guard, but the performance she gave on BBC News the other day brought to mind Bertie Wooster, who inspected his mind and found that "it boggled".

Invited to comment on a silly piece in the Daily Star, which said that English fans should give the "Frogs" a good hiding this summer because the French authorities had bungled the allocation of World Cup tickets, Miss P got in a fearful bate. If anything untoward happened over there, she spluttered, the Star would bear a heavy

responsibility.
All right, the piece was infantile, but the poor dear needn't worry. To heed the paper's advice it is first necessary to be able to read, and the Star supplies evidence daily that not everybody can. If she really thinks that newspapers can prod otherwise well-behaved people into "acting up" on foreign soil, then she has not absorbed the

violent lessons of the past 25 years. The view that if fans can't get tickets then trouble will follow, and the troublemakers cannot be held

MICHAEL **HENDERSON**



kind of tosh that finds favour with the new tribe of "fanalysts". To a person they seem oddly ignorant of the fact that a significant minority of supporters will cause trouble. wherever they go — and, as night follows day, they will always blame somebody or something else: too much hospitality, not enough hospitality, lenient policing, heavy-handed policing. There will be trouble in France this summer for one simple reason: plenty of "fans" will leave these

shores intent on causing it. Nobody who watches football regularly in this country can doubt that many of the people they share the grounds with are, at best, lavatorial; at worst, criminal. Tele-

of the professional game, may try to kid viewers that "the atmo-sphere is terrific", but those who watch football live know better. Much of the time it is mephitic.

At Leeds last Saturday a city-centre pub hosted a knot of fans who chanted "no surrender to the IRA", and bellowed the horrible chant about the Munich air crash. A friend who watched Manchester United away to Chelsea endured supporters abusing Irwin (he's Irish), Schmeichel (he's good), Cole (he's black), Sheringham (he used to play for Spurs) and Beckham (he goes out with somebody famous. apparently). "At the end of the game, I felt defiled," my friend said, "I wanted to read a book, or look at some paintings, just to remind myself I was human."

In the late Sixties, that wonderful man John Arlott gave up reporting football because, as he put it, "the game became seedy". Many years later he told me: There are some good men in football but they're outnumbered about 200 to one."

Football didn't bother then about driving men like Arlott from the game and it doesn't bother now. It has sponsors to bow to it. television executives to scrape and a few thousand troglodytic fans to belch approval, so it swaggers

about like a playground bully.
It's a wonderful game, football, despite everything. It's just a pity that so many of the people who play, manage, administer and watch it make you want to hold your nose. Come on, Miss Pilling, let's get you in that boat.

The slings and arrows of outrageous comment

nature's Horatios who, Shakespearians will recall, earned Hamlet's commendation for being "a man that fortune's buffets and rewards hast ta'en with equal thanks". He is not greatly moved by praise, or deflected by criticism, and as he has just become the first man to captain England in 50 Tests, he could be said to have triumphed over those who are less

It's a hard

life up

here, Waz

He would be less than human, however, were he not to blanch from time to time at the stuff that is written about him and the team he leads. Two weeks ago, when England won a dramatic Test in Trinidad to square the series at 1-1, he was a pukka chap, a giorious leader. Now, depending on which paper you read, he is "Captain Calamity" and "flop Athers". Of course, he was entirely to

blame for the defeat in Guyana.

which again puts England on the

back foot he lost the toss; the silly mutt! Anyway, when fielders drop catches as England did, there isn't a right lot the poor old skipper can

Being a Test captain is no job for faint hearts. Sachin Tendulkar, the finest batsman in the world, admitted defeat after little more

An Irish pal in New York went on the knocker this week, seeking funds for a football compen-non, and met a well-heeled Manhattanite at his town house. Spotting something that looked familiar, Conor said: That looks like a Cezanne". "That is a Cezanne." was the reply.

What do you think Doug Ellis has on his wall (apart from the heads of Aston Villa managers)?

than a year of leading India. Even Mark Taylor, a brilliant captain, had a terrible time of it until he found some form last summer. In his case Australia were good enough to carry him through. How good would Atherton be if he

had Shane Warne to bowl for him?

The most mysterious captain's business of all concerns Wasim Akram, who surrendered the Pakistan job to protect his family, after receiving death threats, and then found himself demoted from the team altogether. Wasim, the greatest bowler of his kind in the history of the game! Belatedly called up to South Africa, he returned to their side yesterday with this ringing endorsement from a team-mate: "We don't need him."

So, here are two wishes for the coming week: Michael Atherton to make a hundred and England to win in Barbados, Wasim Akram to scatter SoutheAfrican stumps all over Port Elizabeth:

Noble cause demanding respect of rugby folk

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 7 1998

Paul Ackford has turned in his rugby jersey for a word processor more nimbly than most processor more nimbly than most former players but he gut one thing spectacularly wrong last week. What the blazes are England doing playing the other British teams, he wanted to know, when they could be testing themselves against South Africa and the All Blacks?

Leaving aside for a moment the

Leaving aside for a moment the fact that England went through a full-scale international engage-ment before Christmas, is he seriously urging the abandon-ment of the Five Nations Championship? This is an annual ritual dedicated to the noble cause of cheering us all up and the churl wants to scrap it on grounds of (yes, you've guessed) "irrele-

Of course, if England care only about beating the hest teams in the world, then it is in their interests to play sides from the southern hemisphere regularly. But if that is all the game means in the brave new professional world, it is an admission of defeat. There used to be a fellowskip of rugby irrespers be a fellowship of rugby, irrespec-tive of who happened to be the best side at any one moment, and if my experience of the recent Ireland-Scutland game is anything to go by, that fellowship survives even England and

France's top-doggery.

Let's take Ackford at his word. If he really wants to cast aside the lower orders, he shouldn't be surprised if France, South Africa and New Zealand say to England: "Sorry, lads, but we really don't think you're up to playing us." The Five Nations may be a second-rate competition in global terms but, as England are a second-rate team, that is surely where they belong.

In Paris today, and at Wembley. which Wales must call home for the time being, the bonds of history will be renewed. Long may it be so. These weekends, which are primarily about sport, are also about the gifts of comradeship and friendly rivalry that sport bestows. However good or indif-ferent the match, there are plenty of compensations. Where would you rather spend a rugby week-end: Paris or Durban? Edinburgh or Brisbane? Dublin or Auckland? And no fibbing.

Danny Baker returns next week

Double-double Gary trouble

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You might imagine that getting Santayana and Gary Newbon on the same page, never mind the same sentence, to be beyond the wit of man. Think again. Every time Newbon appears on the box it is tempting to remember Santayana's observation of Rousseau's Confessions, that it mixed candour with ignorance of self in equal

Newbon doesn't lack candour, that's for sure, though what he feels candid about is hard to define. His "questions" to Alex Ferguson after
Manchester United's dreadful game in Monaco on
Wednesday were: "You must have been proud of

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

results will

appear in

The Times

on Friday

signed to flatter his subject, like a commoner

craving a boon from a medieval monarch. The ignorance of self is the easier bit by far, for Newbon clearly doesn't realise how absurd he appears. This is the man, after all, who once introduced himself to a stranger as "the most famous man in the Midlands" and now traps unwary footballers at the end of their 90 minutes when they have unremarkable thoughts to impart.

Why, in any case, do TV people think viewers must be taken "backstage" at a time when the participants are trying to come to terms with their performance. Nobody grabs Macbeth in the wings and says: "The witches did you proud tonight".

**Alterno! What have I done? Look out, Stratford! that battling performance." Your Norwegian centre says: "The witches did you proud tonight", backs were marvellous tonight." It was aggood saltened! With have I done? Look out, Stratford! result tonight." In each case he made a saltenent de- A man with an awful smirk is heading your way.

TENNIS

Graf setting out to regain position of dominance

AFTER only two competitive matches in nine months Steffi Graf finds herself in an unusual position, for the last time her ranking was in double figures was as long ago as 1984, when Liverpool won

the European Cup.
When injury forced her to leave the circuit last June, she lost her position as No I but she still had that air of invincibility that 374 weeks at the top of the heap brings. Now the whippersnappers have taken over and Graf has to prove her worth all over

Still, the signs are good. She may be doing a passable impression of Greta Garbo and limiting her appearances to the bare minimum, but when she is out and about she appears relaxed and has even taken to cracking the odd joke. Her knee seems to be hold-

just how well the injury has Her back, the cause of much anguish over the past couple of years, is better than it has ever been. But it is not all plain sailing, for Graf has come down with a cold as she IN INDIAN WELLS CALIFORNIA

of Thailand, or Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, of Spain.

Her sparring partners of old are not present - Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Mary Joe Fernandez have both withdrawn because of injury, while Monica Seles pulled out last week for "personal rea-sons". So Graf has been left on her own to deal with the new

One of their number, Mirjana Lucic, has practised with Graf a couple of times this week, meetings that drew crowds of several hundred,

ing up under the strain, although the State Farm Evert Cup here is a hard-court tournament that should show

prepares for her opening match, which will be against either Tamarine Tanasugarn,

FROM ALIX RAMSAY



and discovered that the German is not ready to become a has-been just yet: By the end of

each session there were signs that Graf was fired up and keen for action. What has kept Graf going over the months is the belief that the rest are there to be beaten. She has never been

one who found being beaten a comfortable experience. In fact, she is more unhappy about losing than she is happy at winning. She even practises to win. In Hanover last month she dragged Anke Huber on to the court at the crack of dawn and then used her for target practice. Even in training, she is not willing to let anyone get the better of her.

The draw has been kind to Graf. Should she get through her first match she will most likely face Ai Sugiyama for a place in the quarter-finals, safe in the knowledge that the awkward customers such as Lucic, Serena Williams, Natasha Zvereva and Irina Spirlea will have had to fight among themselves for the right to meet her there.

Martina Hingis and Venus Williams are safely ensconced in the top half of the draw and are scheduled to meet in the semi-finals. The omens could not be better, all Graf has to do is get back into the habit of winning.

BASKETBALL

Finch must paper over cracks

CHRIS FINCH, who appeared in three cup finals as a player with Sheffield Sharks and three Wembley play-off championships, faces his first final as the club's coach tomorrow with a weakened

Ian McKinney will almost certainly miss the climax to the Uni-Ball Trophy against London Towers with a sprained ankle and the Sharks will probably go into the game at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham with two other players less than fully fit. McKinney's fellow England international, John Amaechi, has tonsillitis, the legacy of a

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

last week and Deon Hames. the American who shares some of the playmaking duties with McKinney, has a sprained elbow. Extra responsibility will be thrust upon the slim shoulders of Tyrell Myers, the third Sharks guard.

"All this may affect the way we play but we're deep enough to offset the damage," Finch said. If the Sharks had not been in contention for the Budweiser League title. Amaechi and Hames would have been pulled out of the league game away to Chester

Finch, who gave up playing

league's second-youngest coach. He will be hoping for more joy than the youngest. Bob Donewald, whose Leicester Riders squad lost the National Cup final seven weeks ago, but Finch will be up against the vastly experienced London Towers coach, Kevin Cadle

The Towers have lost both league games to the Sharks this season but Cadle likes nothing less than to lose cup finals. If his squad's form in the league victory over the Tigers at Bracknell on Wednesday was anything to go by, the Towers are grimly determined to hold on to the trophy. It may well be all they

SPORT

Pessoa puts paid to champion

EQUESTRIANISM: Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, gained a stirring win on the French-bred Fidji du Fleury in the Prix des Ecoliers, the opening event of the Paris-Bercy Volvo World Cup meeting, in Paris yesterday. Pessoa relegated the French national champion, Roger-Yves Bost, on Vaile D'Or, to second place by 0.54sec (Jenny MacArthur writes).

Geoff Billington was the best of the three Britons competing, finishing seventh on Virtual Village Niko. He used the class to school his leading horse, It's Otto, for the World Cup qualifier tomorrow.

HOCKEY: After a I-I draw with Malaysia, the bome nation, in the Sultan Azlan Shah tournament in lpoh yesterday. England's bopes of a bronze medal play-off disappeared when Germany lost 3-2 to New Zealand. Australia will meet Germany in the final tomorrow and New Zealand will play off for the bronze medal with South Korea, leaving England and Malaysia to contest the wooden spoon.

ECYCLING: Chris Boardman, victim of a flu outbreak that has affected many of the leading teams Europe, will not start in the eight-day Paris-Nice event tomorrow. His Gan team asked him to stand down to help to accelerate his recovery.

ROWING: Nearly 250 cights will race from Mortlake to Putney in the 58th Women's Head this morning. Suzie Ellis, who carlier this week failed to be sclected as the Cambridge University cox for the Boat Race, will steer Thames, the champions, in pursuit of

her sixth Head victory. RUGBY LEAGUE: Colin Myler yesterday resigned as chief executive of Super League Europe, complaining of his distillusionment 15 months after his appointment to head the commercial



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WITH MIRCHER

Kevin Eason in Melbourne sees the speedy return of an invisible man

Schumacher takes alternative route

known better than to believe the man with the straightest face in sport. Two days ago Michael senu-macher breezed into town the last driver to arrive for the Australian Grand Prix - and promptly announced there was little chance that he could win the first race of the season. Twenty-four hours later he scorched around the Albert Park circuit in the fastest practice time.

There was barely a hint of

irony in his voice, not a flicker of a smile when he then announced afterwards that, actually, his Ferrari still needed to be developed before it would be ready to carry him to

winning ways.
It is impossible to see what is going on inside the Ger-man's head, to read the mood of the only driver of the present crop who warrants entry into the paniheon of Formula One. Saying that he has no chance is a deliberate diversion from a man who arrived here with a mild dose of flu but would have told his rivals he was suffering from yellow fever if he thought that it would give him a psychological advantage.
This week has been even

more difficult than usual for Schumacher watchers, mainly because he has been close to invisible at a time when race drivers are usually omnipresent in newspapers, magazines and on television. Jacques Villeneuve, the world champion, has appeared on just about every news bulletin for the past five days.

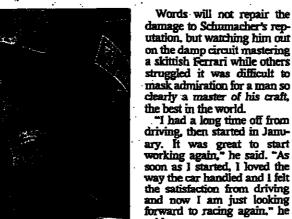
Every interviewer has asked the same question: "What do you think of Michael Schumacher?" The German, it seems, overshadows the whole Formula One circus.



'It was great to start working again. Now I am just looking

succession of rows. Perhaps he was right, then,

to lay low instead of presentracing took over.

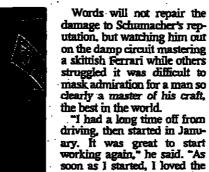


forward to racing'.

Maybe Schumacher decided that absence might make hearts grow fonder. Maybe it was best to leave Villeneuve to do the talking about that incident in Jérez last season? Schumacher is clearly tired

of the subject, particularly when asked by one interview-er whether he would be prepared to cut Villeneuve off at a corner again. Schumacher re-plied: "Wait and see." Anything more could simply be twisted into yet another in a

ing himself as a target for criticism, for the subject of his deliberate shunt into Villeneuve at the European Grand Prix - which led to him being strippped of his second place in the championship seemed to have evaporated yesterday as the business of



That is the essence of the man. Pundits here have been wondering whether he would have the same lust for victory since he recently acquired the duties of husband and father. Others sneer that the richest man in Formula One can afford to relax on the £20 million a year Ferrari are reportedly paying him. That is to misjudge him. At 29, he is at the peak of his powers and stands on the threshold of

its first world title since 1983. He has been with the team for two seasons and came close to the drivers' title last year in a car clearly inferior to the winning Williams.

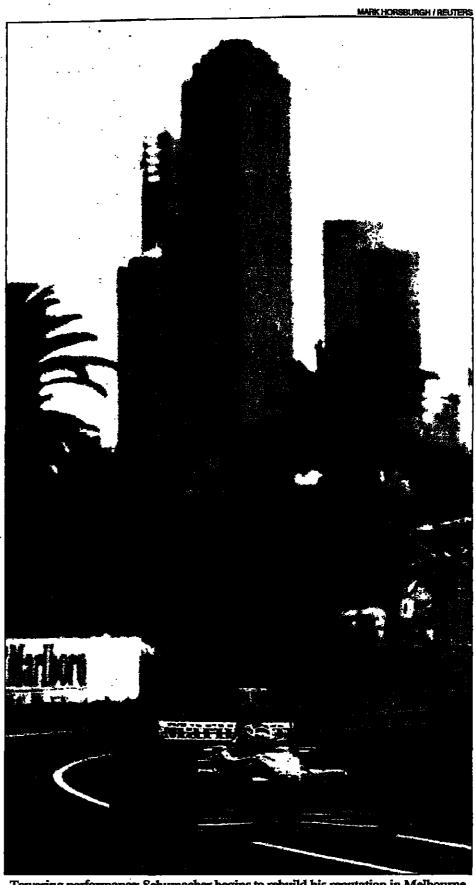
history if he can bring Ferrari

This year, though, he has the new F300 developed by Rory Brawn, who guided him to his two world titles at Benetton, and the burden of the expectation of Luca de Montezomolo, the Ferrari chairman, who clearly believes that he is due a dividend from his massive investment in the German.

Schumacher still refused to talk up his chances yesterday. Chewing on an orange as he snuffled through his head cold, he said that the true form guide would only be written once the weekend was over. "We know we have done a

good job on the car," he said. Whether it is good enough I am still not sure, but it's close and we are developing it all the time so I am sure we will get there."

Then again, why believe a word that the man says? Schumacher will, as usual, be at his most convincing on the track this year and there is every chance that memories of the villain of 1997 will be erased by the performances of 1998.



Towering performance: Schumacher begins to rebuild his reputation in Melbourne

Rivals attempt to put brake on new McLaren

ALBERT PARK, MELBOURNE

FROM KEVIN EASON

THE first day of the Formula One season started with controversy as six teams joined forces to criticise a new brake system developed by the McLaren team.

Cars had barely turned a wheel before team managers were putting their heads toether to complain about the design of the new McLaren. Much is expected of the Woking-based team and Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard immediately obliged with fast practice times.

According to suspicious engineers in some team garages, their speed and poise could be partially attributed to a new braking system. A second pedal allows the drivers to control the amount of braking to both front wheels, enabling them to keep their cars balanced.

By last might the Stewart, Jordan, TWR Arrows, Sauber, Benetton and Ferrari teams had signed a letter of protest to officials of the FIA. Formula One's ruling body. The FIA has already ruled the system legal, however, and showed no signs of backing down. There are thought to be other teams either with a similar system in place or in the process of developing one. Ron Dennis, the McLaren

managing director, said that plans for the designs were sent to the FIA for inspection and approved long before the cars went into production.

David Richards, head of the Benetton team, criticised

the innovation because it could force other teams to follow suit, raising their costs as they battled to narrow McLaren's advantage. "If that happens, then we have to question its validity," he said. Significantly, Williams, who won the constructors championship last season. have not signed up to the protest, which was apparently inspired by Ferrari, Mc-

Laren's arch rivals. If the Me-

Larens continue to perform well here this weekend, the chances are high that an official complaint will be

made, forcing the FIA to

ISION AND RADIO

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review McLaren's designs. If Ferrari win, peace is likely to

reign.

The pit-lane discussions were a distraction from the real action on the track, where Michael Schumacher proved that his chances here cannot be dismissed by topping the practice times and Hakkinen showed that he could be a dark horse in the champion-

Machinery was much on the mind of Damon Hill, too. His Jordan has a handoperated clutch, a device he has been using for the first time — and rather ineptly, he

DETAILS

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, M Schumacher (Ger, Fernat) Imin 33.825ecc; 2, M Holdeher (Fin, McLuren) 1:34.432; 3, J Villensuve (Can, Williams) 1:35.026; 4, AWuz (Austrie, Bernatton) 1:35.206; 7, S Coutheart (Ger, Lorden) 1:35.708; 7, J Harbert (Ger, Lorden) 1:35.708; 7, J Harbert (Ger, Lorden) 1:35.708; 7, J Harbert (Ger, Sauber) 1:36.807; 8, J Alexi (Fr, Sauber) 1:36.005; 9, J Trulf (F, Proce) 1:35.231; 10, F44 Ferraten (Ger, Willerm) 1:36.807; 12, R Barrichello (Br, Sessed) 1:37.022; 13, D Hai (GB, Lorden) 1:37.102; 14, O Panis (Fr, Proce) 1:37.102; 15, R Rosset (Br, Tyrell) 1:37.105; 17, E Inthe (GB, Ferrati) 1:37.808; 18, P Diriz (Br, Tyrell) 1:37.805; 17, E Inthe (GB, Ferrati) 1:37.808; 18, P Diriz (Br, Tyrell) 1:38.817; 20, G Pisichella (B, Barrichon) 1:38.890; 21, S Naisano (Japan, Minard) 1:39.044; 22, E Tuero (Arg, Minard, 216.808).

Tuero (Arg. Minard, 2-16.809).
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June 20: French, Megny-Cours. July 12:
Brisch, Sherstone. July 20: Austran,
Zellweg, Aug 2: German, Hockenheim, Aug
10: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 30: Belgian,
Spa-Frencouchemps. Sept. 13: Balan,
Monza. Sept. 27: Lusembourg,
Nicourgring, Nov 1: Japanese, Statule.

candidly admitted yesterday. He was "getting the hang of it", he promised, managing to keep the engine running after a couple of early excursions into grass and gravel.

The day did not start too

well either for Formula One's youngest competitor. Estaban Tuero, 19, took his Minardi out on to a Formula One track for the first time in the morning practice session and promptly came to grief at the fourth corner. The afternoon was hardly any better: just one lap completed. Things can only improve.



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THE ''SATI

case of the Oakwell mascot

Queen of Plainmoor relishes high life

personalities in and around the club lately. there would have been little to worry about. Garry Nelson. best-selling author and Torquay player/assistant-coach last season. Helen Chamberlain. Sky football presenter and Torquay fanatic. So much publicity, so little to celebrate. Suddenly, though, the locals

mistake on the football map. similar to those which can be found in the new holiday brochure for neighbouring Teignmouth. A photo reversal the wrong way

700-year-old village moved from north to south of the river. Glance at the Nationwide League third division table and it looks upside

Torquay, instead of occupying their usual place at the southern end, are up north. Two seasons ago, they would have dropped out of the League had Stevenage Borough, the Vauxhall Conference champions, had their ground up to standard on time. Last season, Torquay finished only three points ahead of relegated Hereford

As Reg Longman, a Torquay supporter for 51 years, put it while watching the 1-0 victory over Cardiff City 1-0 on Tuesday: "I bet, at the start of this season, 95 per cent of go down. We were poor last penny to spend."

record eight successive league wins, the Gulls are flying. Victory over lowly Cambridge United today would edge them closer to the record of 14 consecutive League wins shared by Manchester United. Bristol City and Preston North End. Five of Torquay's next six tion from the lower half of the

> One worry, though: Kevin Hodges, the coach, has been named third division manager of the month for February. The last time Hodges received the award, months ago. Torquay fell sixth to 21st

Until this season, Hodges worked in a coaching team with Nelson, who drew on his experiences at Torquay to pen Left Foot In The Grave?, his follow-up to Left Foot Forward. To Chamberlain, the graveyard has been an irresistible place. Co-host of Soccer AM, the four-hour Saturday morning programme on Sky Sports 2, she rarely misses a match, rush-

from

ing straight from the studio. Rushing so fast that she was trapped twice for speeding and banned. "The lady who does so much for Torquay United," the man on the mike said as Chamberlain strutted onto the pitch at half-time against Cardiff. She used to feed sea lions supporters thought we would at Chessington World of Adventures, was a Bluecoat en-

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Chamberlain rushes straight from the television studios to see Torquay United play

tertainer for Pontin's, but nothing has endured like her love of Torquay United.

It began while she was working as a local disc jockey and she returned to her musical roots on Tuesday, phoning three fellow drummers to take their instruments into the to have the club crest tattooed in a private place if the team reaches the play-offs, though she is hoping for automatic promotion. "Then I might get out of it," she said.

Days such as these are rare in Torquay's history. There is not much to beat by way of

'Chamberlain has twice been caught speeding to matches'

stands at Plainmoor after a long abstention. "I have rallied them back together tonight because the team was winning and we had been chewing our fingers," Chamberlain said. "Seven wins in a row and the crowd were quiet." Chamberlain has promised

achievement: runners-up in the Sherpa Van Trophy final at Wembley in 1989, winning promotion at Wembley to the old third division in 1991.

Bateson, the club's owner, no longer attends matches and is

Sad, then, that Mike trying to sell. He stood down

as chairman after abuse from supporters. Mervyn Benney. Bateson's successor, said that little has changed in the way the club is run and that success has been built on collective spirit.

Such as when Hapgood was prevented from sharing in win bonuses, because he is an apprentice, and the other players had a whip-round; or when Rodney Jack, the club's leading scorer. heard that Torquay had rejected a £300,000 offer from Crewe Alexandra and shook Hodges's hand to thank him.

While the club has risen, and Hodges has groomed a winning team on a tight budget, the overdraft has been cut by 25 per cent to some £300,000. For the visit of Cardiff, it was a filthy night — howling wind and driving

expecting a miracle at the gate.
"We have got sea one side
and that is half our trouble," he said, explaining low attendances. They do not come in by boat and it is a bit rough

Still, 3,358 arrived, just 15 months after gates had slipped dangerously close to three figures. With a bang on the drum, the Torquay ship kept a steady course. And all who sailed in her were looking forward, no doubt, to seeing the promised tattoo when they reach dock.

Toby Tyke and the mask of mystery Mark Hodkinson studies the

to a toilet roll, a toilet gesture

and a set of Manchester City

supporters who had had

their noses rubbed in it once

too often for their liking.

They said I dropped my

trousers but I didn't," he

pleaded. "I just wiped my

ackside that's all and the

City fans got a right monk

on." A "monk", incidentally,

is Barnsleyspeak for a bad

mood, and not someone of a

religious persuasion and a

Amid the tabloid furore,

Toby almost resigned, in

appropriately melodramatic

fashion. "They were writing all this stuff and I thought

bugger it. I was going to

take my head off in the

middle of the pitch." By "my

head" he really meant Toby's

head, of course; the groundsman inight have complained otherwise.

His other misdemeanour

saw him knock off a police-

man's helmet during Barns-

ley's on-pitch promotion party last season. "He wrote

Howard Kendall haircut.

s assignments go, it should be easy enough. It's not like asking Chris Sutton to autograph an England shirt or Gordon Strachan to list his

favourite referees. Toby Tyke, please, is the request. "Hmmm, now you're asking," is the response. Toby is the official mason of Barnsley FC and, while the club is new addi-tions to the FA Carling Premiership, Toby has been in the elite since he first strutted (walking is for cissies) onto the Qakwell

pitch four years ago.

Toby, see, is not one of those lightweight, fairy-cake mascots that shuffle apologetically along the perimeter ience. He is the authentic Yorkshire tyke — irreverent, energetic, drunk on life; if he's not barking in your face. he's barking at the moon.

His antics have made the front page of the Daily Sport and the club has twice issued missives calling for a tad more decorum. All the same, he is much loved at Oakwell: in fact, his colour photo-graph is in more demand at the Reds Superstore than most of the players'.

If a superstar is measured by his degree of availability, Toby is Barnsley's answer to Prince or Bruce Springsteen. "You'll have to put the re-quest to Michael," the recep-tionist said. Michael is Michael Spinks, the club's general manager/secretary no less, and self-appointed dog-handler. Calls to him remain unreturned and a trip to Oakwell proves firsitless despite Toby's presence at the ground. "He won't see you until Michael says it's OK." Spinks is on the phone and then has a meeting. It is all academic anyway, Toby has scarpered.

Finally, on Spinks's blind side, Toby is tracked down only by phone, mind. "You won't put in my real name will you?" he asked nervously. Instinctively, I ask him to wait while I draw the blinds and check the tip of my umbrella for unusual sub-

Anonymity is promised Known As Toby (TAAKAT) turns out to be a charming guileless 19 year-old who, when not dressed as a dog, albeit one who stands on two legs and wears a football kit. works as a barber in Barnslev. "The mascot job is great for me," he explained. "I like messing about and acting the prat. When I go out with my mates on a Friday night there's always someone losing an eyebrow or some-

His notoriety owes much

a letter to the paper and said I'd set a bad example and all the kids would start doing the same thing now." he said. Horror videos, violent computer games, Toby Tyke — their influence should be

monitored. Most of the time, Toby is a lovable rascal and his adoration is such that he is invited to birthday parties around the town. The seen other mascots and they're not a patch on me. They don't do half the stuff I do," he said. Lofty the Lion, Bolton Wanderers furry talisman, is similarly triumphal, I proffer. Tuby has more portentous news on the Lofty front.
"I heard he got pork pies thrown at him at a recent match. You've got to watch that, it's important to know just how to treat the away

One imagines a special relationship between a man and his mascot suit. When the performance is over and the suit is propped up lifeless and still, is there a moment of quiet reflection? "You're too knackered to feel owt. It's hard work in that suit, you sweat a right lot." The suit is due for replacement soon and the new one will be a different hue of brown. The children who watch his every swagger will be informed that Toby has had a bath and is showing his true colours.

The Artist Actually Known As Toby does not receive payment tor his services, but has a seat reserved in an executive box. The offer of wages would be declined anyway: he's delighted to walk the hallowed turf and to support the club in such a unique way. He has two scrapbooks Filled with cuttings about Toby Tyke and his bedroom wall is a shrine to this man-

sized dog. A photograph, perhaps of TAAKAT in the half-light next to his suit, would at in there. The request is turned down. A local hack offers empathy. "I found myself saying to someone at the club, 'come on, you know as well as I do that there is a bloke in there'."

There is indeed a bloke in there, but such is the enigma surrounding Toby Tyke, he may soon prefer to linger outside the butchers rather than the barbers. The staff at Barnsley should be afraid. very afraid, of meddling with half-man, half-dog legends.



Toby Tyke: more than a figure of fun

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Vialli's tactical triumphs prove more than beginner's luck great tradition of 3-5-2, which he had so carefully **BRIAN** arrived as a substitute, and

apoleon would have made Gianluca Vialli a marshal His well-known question. before promoting any of his generals, was: "Is he lucky?" And Vialli, in his first four matches as player manager of Chelsea, seems to have proved that, on the big occasions at least, the force is with him.

In the Coca-Cola Cup. Arsenal, who should have annihilated Chelsea at Highbury but won only 2-1, were brushed aside in the return at Stamford Bridge, Vialli's first game in charge, and Chelsea were at Wembley.

After two mediocre league performances, against Leicester City and Manchester United, on to Seville, where pessimism among the travelling press corps about the outcome of the Cup Winners' Cup ned endemic though nothing in Real Betis's own league form suggested they were

There was scepticism. too, about Vialli's credentials as a manager. In his native Italy, after all, he would not even be allowed on the bench because he has not gained the requisite certificate.

Is he, as the sceptics think, a cynical appointment, a little like that of his flamboyant predecessor Ruud Gellit, put there largely for his symbolic value.



showed himself remarkably shrewd, craftily engaging in what the Italians call pre tattica, the art of confusing your opponents before a match.

Yes, he assured us, before we set off from Heathrow, 4-3-3 would be the pattern. The implication being that he would again figure up front, with Zola and either Mark Hughes or Tore Andre Flo. No word of Eddie Newton who, in the event, would play in midfield.

Among those critics closest to Chelsea, the very concept of 4-3-3 is a debatable one. There are those who believe that, despite a famous win against Wimbledon in the FA Cup

inculcated in every one of the club's teams. Vialli insisted after the victory on Thursday that

Chelsea had played 4-3-3 of a sort, thanks to the immense energy and versatility of Dan Petrescu, intself in attack, dropped back to bolster the midfield. But you might take that with a pinch of salt.

Effectively, it was 4-4-2 with Flo the essential joker in the pack. "I feel I can do something if I play," Flo said and proved as good as his

Where Chelsea could logically have been expected to threaten Betis in the air, where the Spaniards have been so weak all season. Flo ripped through their defence at ground level, scoring twice in 13 minutes and leaving Betis a demoralised side for the rest of the first half.

"Tore was in great condition and he played well in France for Norway." Vialli said, "and I was sure he was going to play great."
But no one could be sure that his contribution could be as "great" as that

Indeed, after he had exploited Olias's horrific slip to score the second Chelsea goal, he virtually faded from view; but who could blame him? By the same token, who could ever have imagined

that Mark Hughes would

barely five minutes from time? It was a miss that so nearly enabled Betis to save the game. The left flank of Chelsea's defence was caught out and Finidi George had time to cross to the ever-threatening Alfonso, whose header was firm and accurate but still not good enough to beat Ed de Goey, who made such a dramatic save. Still, had Chelsea been

given the penalty that they probably deserved four minutes from half-time, instead of having Zola booked, all this might have been academic.

Zola and referees? In the 1994 World Cup, coming on as a substitute for Italy against Nigeria, he was sent off in short order and for no good reason by an inept

This time, when the big Yugoslav, Vidakovic, brought him down in the penalty area, Artanas Ouzounov, the largely efficient Bulgarian referee, added insult to injury, not only denying Zola a penalty but booking him for diving. "I can't believe he got booked for it." Graham Rix, the Cheisea coach, said.

Vialli insisted: "This is only the first part of the match, we have 90 minutes more to play in London. This game is not

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

and the Lampard ystery and son maintain family business

West Ham beginning to reap the benefit of a taxing inheritance

nce, before they realised just what a talent Frank Lampard Jr might be, there were those that accused him of trading off the good name of his father. It hurt him deeply at the time. He was only 18. Now he is older and wiser and ready to admit that, in one respect. the detractors had a point. "When mum called out 'Frank'." he smiled, "I used to ignore her and pretend it was dad she was after. Mind you, I

think he did the same." On the other side of the dressing-room at West Ham United's training ground at Chadwell Heath. across a floor littered with mud and a host of wet towels, his father laughs, too. His son calls him "my biggest fan and my biggest critic". Their relationship could be a model for fathers and sons everywhere, one that exudes warmth, mutual support and re-

yielded a host of

positive results.

Only for a few months back in the midst of last season, when Frank Jr was struggling to break into the team and his father was impatient for him to be given his chance rather than just dip his toe in the water, did it seem for the first time as though they were being persecuted for being father and son. Even that did not last for

After young Frank scored a hat- ard Jr, it was a relief, too.

trick in West Ham's Coca-Cola Cup drubbing of Walsali last November, and a subsequent run of fine performances in the centre of midfield, those who had been criticising Lampard Sr. Harry Redknapp's No 2 at Upton Park, and hinting - as people once did with John and Kevin Bond and Brian and Nigel Clough — that nepotism was responsible for his elevation to the first-team squad, were forced into a collective volte-

Their embarrassment was compounded when Frank Jr. who is still only 19, received a callup to the England B squad for the game against Chile at The Hawthoms. He was brought on as a first-half substitute and was one of the few to impress. Those who had written him off because he was his father's son

For all those who know both men, who realise that, just like that other father and son combination, Harry and Jamie Redknapp, the Lampards are two of the most genuine, down-to-earth people in football, the son a credit to his proud father and both men full of a natural courtesy and affability that deserved a better response, it was a gratifying turnaround. For Lamp-

up a West Ham



Face values: the footballing world has learnt to respect the Lampards as much for their charm as for their undoubted sporting talents. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

"I was 18 at the time I started getting all the stick," he said. "It is hard for someone that age to take it because vou have got no ехретіелсе.

"I wasn't as thick-skinned as I am now. But I have come out the other side stronger. I am able to handle things now. It might be a good thing because it has made me a stronger personality.

"You try to ignore the criticism but that little bit can hurt you and it did. The fact was that I had always been a West Ham fan and I had But there was a few comments I was told about, a few mumblings. The point was that I had not proved any of them wrong because I had only just broken into the team; but this year it is a different

"If I get any stick about my old man getting me in the team, I can just point to the England B caps and the goals and that is all the proof I need. As dad always says: 'Let your football do the talking.' and it has. It is the best way to shut that minority up."

His father started pushing him to follow in his footsteps when he was 6. Lampard Sr had a distinguished career with West Ham, winning the FA Cup with them in 1980, when they beat Arsenal, their opponents tomorrow in a quarterfinal at Highbury, in the final, His finest hour came when he scored a back-post header after a cross from Trevor Brooking to take the east

London club past Everton in the

"I come from Canning Town," Frank Sr said. "It is right on the

doorstep for the club. In those days,

times were hard and one way out of

it was to become a footballer. All my mates at school; all we wanted

to be was footballers.
"I just felt that I had done all

right and that football had given me the chance to experience things

and places I wouldn't have been

semi-final replay.

able to do otherwise in life. I thought if he [Frank Jr] was good enough to come through as a player, then the rewards are there.
"I think he will go on to surpass what I achieved as a player. He is going the right way. He is 19 and he has played for England B. I was a full back and I have always stressed to Frank that he should be more of an attacking player

6 If I get any stick about my old man getting me in the team,

I can just point to the England B caps and the goals 🤊

because it is always the midfielders

and the strikers who get all the

Now, of course, those accolades

are starting to flood in. After

spending much of last season on

the substitutes' bench, labouring to

establish himself while Rio Ferdi-

nand, the other outstanding prod-

uct of the new West Ham Academy,

was being praised to the skies and touted as the best young player in

the country, he is getting his share

of plaudits, and even being mentioned as an outside bet for a place in Glenn Hoddle's final 22 for the World Cup.
"Part of the reason for the

progress I have made," he said, "is that I made a conscious effort at one stage when I was 17 that I needed to add more to my game. I could always hit the pass and be neat and tidy but that extra bit of scoring

goals and being box to box just

your game if you are going to be a

complete player. I think it was

probably dad as well who

"The fact that Rio got so much

praise first helped me, too. At the

end of last season, when Rio broke

in, he got loads of accolades and it was all totally deserved. Maybe

that was a little jolt I needed. I saw

You realise you need that part to

gives you more to your game.

drummed that in to me.

Rio getting all the praise and getting in the side and I thought: 'I want that,' and I went for it.

"I pulled my finger out over the summer and I came back determined to get my own thing going. Now people want to talk to me, reporters want to talk to me, and my face is on the telly. Now both of us are coming through and people are talking about us both.

"I would like to keep the door open to the World Cup in France. I would never say: 'I don't think I am going to get picked. There are ten eames left for the club and it vol can perform in the big games for West Ham then you never know who is watching. I just have to keep performing for the club and if we could get to the FA Cup Final in my first full season that would be fantastic."

Before he gets up to go, he says he does not remember much of his dad's career, which ended in 1986 when he was 8. "Just the bit at the end when he was in the reserves, he savs with a grin.

Across the room, his dad is still

Fifa shows . red card to tackles from

behind BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

18 profi

's luck

DANGEROUS tackles from behind will be outlawed from the World Cup finals this year and punished with a red card, Fifa, the world governing body, decided yesterday.

The International Football Association Board, the game's ultimate lawmaking body, passed an amendment to the law governing fouls and mis-conduct that read: "A tackle from behind which endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul

Sepp Blatter, the Fifa general secretary, said: There is only one solution, expulsion, red card. The tackle from behind is the bane of the mudern game."

Kewn Ridden, the Fifa refereeing instructor, said: "We're now looking at a situation where a player challenges for the ball with one foot but follows through on the man with the other. We want to climinate brutality."

The Board also agreed to give the Football Association the task of studying the viability of using technical aids to help referees to decide whether the hall has crossed the goalline. Blatter made it clear that Fifa would not consider technical aids to help with refereeing decisions on any other part of the field of play. The England women's teun play Germany in a World Cup group three qualiwhing match at Millwall's New

Iving match at Millwall's recording the following people (Lienzell Lancest). R Brown (Lienzell Country) of the following the fol

BY MATT DICKINSON Ginola pushed out to the left wing and Gross is adamant that the Frenchman should A BATTLE for power, and popularity, within the Totten-ham Hotspur dressing-room play through the middle. The row, in German, was heard by was the cause of an angry row other players and was not the first time the pair had squab-bled over the issue. between Jürgen Klinsmann.

the club's Germany striker, and Christian Gross, the coach, this week that has That disagreement, however, is believed simply to have provided Klinsmann plunged the relegation-threatwith an excuse to air more widespread frustrations at the ened side into fresh crisis. Klinsmann insisted yestermanagement style of Gross day that he and Gross would "go in different directions" at the end of the season because and voice the belief that hecould do a better job. However, Klinsmann app-

of the feud. He was less ears to have misjudged his own strength. While Gross specific about who he wanted to depart, but it appears certain that the German will has been struggling to lift leave after Gross exerted his authority with a stern public relegation zone, Klinsmann's record since returning to the rebuke last night.
On the surface, the pair's club has been little better, with just one goal in nine games.

heated exchange after the 1-0 Moreover, Alan Sugar, the club chairman, is believed to victory against Bolton Wanderers on Sunday was over have put his support behind Specifically. tactics. Klinsmann wants David Gross yesterday as the Swiss

coach issued a blunt put-down to the 33-year-old player. "I have the greatest respect for what Jürgen has done in a long and successful interna-tional career, but he is still a squad member and has to

Gross rebukes Klinsmann after row



Power struggle: Gross and Klinsmann are at odds

who I play and where I play them," Gross said. "We still have nine crucial games and 1 need a very positive attitude from him. When Jürgen rejoined us, it was very clear that he was coming here for six months to help us out of

now need." Klinsmann, despite his popular image, has never been shy about airing his views on tactics and colleagues' abilities and that has led to disagreements at previous clubs. He claimed yesterday, however, that Sugar had encouraged him to speak his mind.

help that we and all our fans

"When I came over, one thing Alan Sugar asked me for was my input and that is what have done, telling them [Gross and the players] what we should change and what we should do better," he said.

"I have put a lot of energy doing that but I have had no

feedback. I have reached the point where I have to stop in order to concentrate on my own game.

"Christian and I have totally different opinions about things and about handling things. But I just don't want our problems and it is that any more of this stuff going on. He is the manager and I respect that, even if I do have different ideas."

Tottenham's problems have jeopardised Klinsmann's chances of leading Germany in the World Cup this summer. His prospects could sink further if he is dropped, a likely outcome of his row with

☐ Newcastle United's preparations for their FA Cup quarter-final at home to Barnsley tomorrow received a setback when Keith Gillespie, their winger, was arrested in connection with an alleged incident at a Gateshead hotel on February 15.

Refereeing solution that required vision

REFEREES have come under increasing attack this season as managers, players and supporters seek a convenient, often helpless, target on which to vent their frustrations. However, it is presumably with tongue firmly in cheek that Total Football - the "ultimate fans' magazine", as it likes to call itself - has come up with an idea that it feels may lead to more accurate

officiating. Total Football has teamed up with Vision Express, the national optician chain to offer cut-price eye tests to the hard-pressed men-in-the-middle. All they have to do is produce a copy of the magazine, a bona fide referees whistle or linesman's flag and an FA referces' certificate. Then, instead of £16.95, the test will cost only £10. What a

Meaty fee

Tony Cascarino, the Ireland and AS Nancy striker, once famously moved from Crockenhill, of the Kent League, to Gillingham for a set of tracksuit tops. Jiul Petrosani, bottom of the Romanian second division, find themselves in much the same boat as Crockenhill and, at present, prefer material transfer fees rather than readies. Thus, Liviu Baicea has left in exchange for ground equipment and Ion Radu has moved on for 500 kilos of pock.

At the draw for the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-finals and Carlsberg Pub Cup quarter-finals at Lancaster Gate on Monday. Graham Kelly, esteemed chief executive of the Football Association, was kept well away from the trophies.



At the event last year, he managed to drop the Vase. This year, on the basis that a safer pair of hands was needed, Pêter Shilton was entrusted with doing the honours.

Tino's error

Faustino Asprilla's erratic play, and timekeeping, were features of his brief stay with Newcastle United. Few people knew what to expect from him,

on or off the pitch. It now appears that his driving ability may be similarly flawed. with almost-tragic consequences this week when his car was in collision with another on a no-overtaking stretch of road near Parma's training ground. Happily, Tina Mossini, 62, the other driver, was discharged from hospital after receiving treatment for a bruised shoulder and gashed forehead. "It was all my fault," Asprilla said. "I shouldn't have attempted the

Video evidence

manoeuvre."

Nottingham Forest are stepping up their efforts to win legal redress against Anderlecht after the revelations of bribery arising from their Uefa Cup semi-final in 1984. Although it has been admitted that money was handed to the match referee before the second leg, which the Belgian club won 3-0 to go through 3-2 on aggregate, Forest are preparing a case, collectively and individually, in an attempt to win compensation - either financial or a place in Europe at Anderlecht's expense.

So check out the loft, sort out the cupboards and sift through the kiddies' toy boxes. Phil Soar. Forest's chief executive, would like to hear from anybody who has a dusty old video of the contentious match in question.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: the day after Brian Little resigned as manager of Aston Villa, the following advertisement appeared in the Birmingham Evening Mail: "Aston Villa bench coat, size extra large, superb cond. £45."

Beck dismissed by Lincoln after going missing

SACKING season or silly season? Either way, John Beck, of Lincoln City, joined the growing list of departed managers yesterday when he was dismissed by the Nationwide League third division club. He is the 33rd manager in England and Scotland to leave since pre-season training got under way in July of

Beck left Sincil Bank only two days after the club had said that it could not afford to get rid of him. He spent only four minutes at a board meeting that lasted several hours, after which John Reames, the Lincoln chairman, said: "John Beck will not be in charge of team affairs for the match at Leyton Orient [today]. Shane Westley, his assistant, will be in charge. I cannot say anything further."

It is believed that Beck was relieved of his duties because of disciplinary reasons. He was called before the board to explain why he went missing for five days, without leave of absence, after the game against Cambridge United last month. He was also punished by the club earlier in the season after an alleged assault on Danny Lynn, 17, a trainee at the club. Lynn claimed he had been grabbed

by the throat and threatened. "I'm packing my things and leaving the club but I'm going to appeal against what it has done to me," Beck said. "I think it's unfair and unjust. I'm very disappointed with what has happened and the stance the club has taken."

Beck led Cambridge United from the fourth division to the brink of the old first division in 1992, when they lost in the

Leicester City. He took over Lincoln in October 1995, when they were struggling to stay out of the Vauxhall Conference, and guided them to eighteenth place. Lincoln finished ninth last

season but led the third division in December, helped by an unbeaten run of 18 league and cup matches. They have since slipped to eighth and were also knocked out of the FA Cup second round by Emley, the UniBond League premier division side, Crowds have fallen to just above 2,000 and, on Tuesday night, supporters chanted for Beck's departure during the 1-1 draw against Swansea City.

The Football League is to blow the whistle on the mystery that frequently surrounds the amount of stoppage time referees add on at the end of each half. It has decided to copy its Italian counterparts and tell supporters how many extra minutes will be played.

From next weekend, the reserve official will be told by the referee how long will be added on and he will then hold up a substitutes' board to inform (ans. The scheme will be implemented on a trial basis until the end of this season, with a view to it coming into operation at the start of the 1998-99 season. It may also be used during the Coca-Cola Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough at Wembley on March 29.

Chris Hull, a League spokesman, said yesterday: This is a facility that is at present in operation in Serie A matches, but the Football League will pioneer the system in this country and will experiment with it until the play-off semi-finals to end of the season."

You profit from our principles ! | Management of lands are not be received and profiled by the second and profiled by the second

22

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

FA CUP QUARTER-FINALS





NEWCASTLE UNITED BARNSLEY Tomorrow, 5.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt If the reports from Dublin are accurate. Newcastle appear to have devoted much of

their preparation for the game tomorrow evening knocking lumps out of each other during a brief sojourn in Ireland. There has been talk of headlocks, right hooks and the hurling of traffic cones. Some might say it is just the right kind of tutelage they need for a muscular quarter-final tie

against Barnsley. The Yorkshire side, who have moved up to the edge of the Premiership relegation zone, bundled Manchester United out of the FA Cup in the last round with a physical display at Oakwell that caused the champions to lose their cool collectively. Barnsley are rallying now, improving with every game and such are the troubles at St James' Park that it is still anyone's guess who will progress to the semi-

If Newcastle can put the spat between Alan Shearer and Keith Gillespie behind them and rely on the Northern Irishman to supply the crosses that the

England captain thrives on, then Kenny Dalglish's team should be marginal favourites to go through, if only because of home advantage.

With Gary Speed in to bolster the midfield and Shearer gradually recovering his fitness, Dalglish must be hoping for some late season improvements to add a gloss to what has been a desperately disappointing season. The FA Cup represents his last opportunity to salvage something from its ruins and the pressure on him and his team will be intense.

Barnsley are in the mood to profit from any uncertainties in their opponents. They seem to have got their second wind, at last, to have found their feet in the top division and their win over United has bred new confidence in them.
John Hendrie, who scored in

both ties against United, appears rejuvenated alongside Ashley Ward: Darren Barnard has proved he has one of the sweetest left feet in the league on the left flank; Neil Redfearn is a fine anchoring player at the heart of midfield and Clint Marcelle and Martin Bullock can cause problems running at defences.

The tie has got the makings of a vaudeville classic. There is something about it, a feeling, a hunch, that whoever wins will go on to lift the Cup.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2): S Given — S Watson, D Peacock, S Pearce — W Barton, K Gillespie, G Spead, R Lee, A Pistone — A Andersson, A Shearer.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 2, from 4pm.

PREDICTION: Newcastle to end another romance.



Wild Rovers: Batty and Le Saux are kept apart by Sherwood during Blackburn Rovers' spectacular retreat from Moscow

million in the state of the sta

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Alan Shearer and Keith Gillespie may not be the first players to find drossing-toom harmony elusive. Here ere 11 pairs of team-mates who discovered a new meaning to

"I preferred you with your heir long," Hirst allegedly said to Carbone and all hell broke loose David Hirst and Benito Carbone

 Mertin Buchen and Gordon Hill Buchen fulfilled the wishes of every non-Man U ten in the country when he dipped the original "Cockney Red" around the ear 3. Graeme Le Saux and David Batty A cold night in Moscow was warmed considerably when the Blackburn pair resorted to fisticults to settle a dispute about the date of the Russian Rovolution

4. Mike Flanaghan and Derek Hales
The Charlton front men were sent off alter
they became overhealed during a Cup lie
against Maldstone at The Valley 5. Bruce Grobbelear and Steve McManamen "Now exactly whose fault was it that we conceded that goal?

6. Graeme Hogg and Craig Levine
An argument over a defensive mix-up
during a triendity (!) led to both men being
sent off, Hogg being shown the red card
while he lay on a stretcher

7. Eric Cantona and Bruno Martin Long before Matthew Simmons, Eric took it out on his own 'keeper at Auxarre 8. Tosh McKinlay and Henrik Larsson Another disagreement over hairstyles, this time at Cellic

Brian Laws and tvano Bonetti
 The Italian was in stitches at the Grimsby player-manager's half-time oratory

10. Neil Ruddock and Robble Fowler "I'm the only fouler at this club," Neil said 11. John Fashanu and Lawrie Sanchez Sanchez alleged that Fash had used martial arts techniques to attack him. Good job it was before Gladiators

Compiled by Richard Whitehead





ARSENAL

WEST HAM UNITED Tomorrow, 3.0 (sold out)



Rob Hughes Any team capable putting Blackburn Rovers out of the FA Cup demands respect, but

Harry Redknapp's headache is whether he can field a West resembling the real thing for the quarter-final at Highbury. Even allowing for managerial disinformation, West Ham are down to the bare bones.

After the dull draw between the clubs last Monday blamed on the Upton Park morass — Arsenal have home ground plus the return of Dennis Bergkamp, whose back pain has eased and whose invention is decisive. Additionally, Ray Parlour's strained hamstring feels better each day. So Arsenal are in reasonable shape despite the continued absence of Seaman. Bould and Wright.

West Ham's fortunes rest between the registration office, the medical-room and the sin bin. Trevor Sinclair is Cup-tied. John Hartson's indiscipline rules him out for three games and, though Samassi Abou returns after his four-match ban for manhandling a referee, he might run the gauntlet of Adams and Keown alone tomorrow.

Redknapp, the manager, could ask Paul Kitson, again, to sacrifice himself for the cause, but that goes against advice that Kitson's abductor muscle needs a month to six weeks of rest and rehabilitation. The alternative, Lee Hodges, is 5ft 5in, born locally and bursting for more than ten minutes to make his name but surely too inexperienced to be thrown to the Arsenal heavies in the week of his twentieth birthday.

The West Ham defence is also suffering. Craig Forrest, the Canada goalkeeper, might reclaim his place from Bernard Lama but Tim Breacker is unfit, Rio Ferdinand doubtful and David Unsworth. unhappy at speculation that he and his wife are homesick for Merseyside, under treatment for a ligament injury.

Consequently, West Ham will pack midfield, where John Moncur is ready to resume and Eyal Berkovic is fortunate that Emmanuel Petit's appalling late tackle on Monday missed his shins.

ARSENAL (probable; 4-4-2): A Menninger

— I, Desch, A Adams, M Keown, N
Whiterburn — R Pariour, P Visits, E Patit, M
Overmas: — D Bergiemp, N Anelka,
WEST HAM UNITED (possible; 3-5-1-1): C
Fortest — S Potts, I Pearos, D Unsworth —
A Impey, S Lomas, J Monour, E Berkovic, S
Lezaridis — F Lempard — S Abou.
Reference M React.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on ITV, from 2.35pm. ■ PREDICTION: Bergkamp to make the difference.





unbridled passion and broken promises, of accusation and counter-accusation. No. not Emmerdale, but Sheffield United FC and plc, where fact has merced with fiction this week and created a troubled backdrop to their FA Cup quarter-final at Highfield Road this afternoon.

In the first episode, Nigel Spackman, the United manager, resigned his job, after only nine months, in protest at what he considered was lack of support from the boardroom. Episode two included United surrendering their unbeaten home record division, when they lost 1-0 against Ipswich Town, and the resignation of Mike McDonald, the chairman, after he had incurred the wrath of the fans.

Episode three has seen Mike McCabe, a director, try to reconstruct the chain of command at Bramall Lane, at the same time as the plc announced a loss of £3.1 million for the six months to December 31. The twist in the plot came when it was revealed that Spackman may return now that McDonald, who curiously accused Spackman of "lack of bottle", has stepped down.

"Drama only lasts a few hours or days," McCabe said yesterday. "If people have abilities in team management and professional management, they can soon overcome dramas, get back





COVENTRY CITY SHEFFIELD UNITED Today, 3.0 (sold out)

to work and start enjoying it again. Nigel conducts himself well. He's a sensible chap and has been prepared to listen. Board members recognise with hindsight that maybe things could have been handled differently. We're in discussions at present with possible appointees for the position of team manager

Though clearly making plans for Nigel, United will still have Steve Thompson as acting manager against a Coventry City side seeking its eight successive victory in league and cup. Thompson will be without Dean Saunders and Roger Nilsen, because of injury, and also Ian Rush, Shaun Derry and Jon Cullen, who are Cup-tied.

COVENTRY CITY (probable: 4-4-2): S Oprizovic — R Nileson, D Dublin, G Breen, M Hall — N Whelan, P Teffer, G Bosterey, T E Solbect — D Huckerby, V Micidoven, SHEFFIELD UNITED (possible: 4-4-2): A Kely — C Short, D Holdsworth, L Sendlon, W Culim — V Borbokle, N Marker, R Ford, G Stuart — G Taylor, Mercelo. Referee: S Dunn

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10.25pm, extended highlights. PREDICTION: Coventry cruise

to eighth successive win.



On Wednesday Leeds heaped more trouble on the already rounded shoulders of Christian Gross, when they pushed Tottenham Hotspur towards the foot of the Premier-

ship. Today, at Elland Road, they will send Wolverhampton Wanderers into crisis if they knock them out of the FA Cup. Wolves' hopes of making the Nationwide League first division play-offs suffered a cruel blow on Wednesday when they were denied a home victory against the bottom club, Stoke City, by a last-minute, scrambled equaliser. More and more, it looks as

chance of achieving any tangible reward for this season. They will gain some encouragement from Leeds's surprise exit from the Coca-Cola Cup at the hands of Reading before Christmas, but George Graham's side have not lost their reputation for obduracy and they must be the favourites to go

though the Cup is their last

through to the semi-finals. In attack, Rod Wallace and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink have rediscovered their form and now that the highly rated Harry Kewell has returned from all manner of adventures with Australia, he has given the Yorkshire side more options going

forward. Their goalkeeper. Nigel Martyn, has been displaying uncharacteristic uncertainty recently, with crucial errors against Newcastle United and Southampton in successive





LEEDS UNITED WOLVERHAMPTON WAND

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

matches and, in Dougle Freedman and Steve Bull, Wolves have strikers who could cause him more problems.

Keith Curle has been playing through the pain of a foot injury in defence but Wolves can rely on the precocity of Robbie Keane, the 17-year-old Irish midfielder who was given a trial with Leeds two years ago but was ignored and signed for Mark McGhee instead.

"He plays the game like a kid," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said of Keane. "It is as if he has gone on the field with his mates, put the jumpers down and just got on with it. But over and above that, he's got ability and an eye for goal and while at his size he gets muscled out of it occasionally, he's not shy of mixing it."

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — A Maybury, R Michanair, M Hiden, I Harte — G Hafle, L Bowyer, D Hopkin, H Kravall — JF Hasselbarik, R Wafface.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M Stowell — K Muscat, K Curle, D Richards, L Naytor — C Pobinson, R Keene, S Osborn, M Aldins — S Bull. D Freedman.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: Leeds to win.



LIVERPOOL

BOLTON WANDERERS Today, 3.0 (sold out)



David Maddock It has been an interesting week at Anfield,

Harkof much attention. The Liverpool players, of course, do not believe the allegations against him, but it has not stopped the practical jokes at his expense.

Behind the joking, however, there are doubts about Stan Collymore's motives, brought into sharp focus by a telephone call from the Aston Villa man to a Liverpool player. Collymore suggested that he had not gone to the press with his allegations and, further, had not said the things attributed to him. The forward was not exactly popular in his time at Anfield and there is a feeling around the Merseyside club that this

could be his revenge. Whatever, Harkness will keep his place against Bolton Wanderers today: Liverpool need to show support to their under-fire defender.

Neil Ruddock is slowly returning to fitness, after a heavy Christmas, but is unlikely to figure. Instead, Roy Evans will pin what little faith he has left in the players who lost at Villa Park, with the possible exception of a rare start for Patrik Berger.

There is a danger of Liverpool slipping quietly out of even the reckoning for a Uefa Cup place. For Bolton, the danger is rather more serious. They are firmly anchored in the bottom three and appear to lack the means to do

anything about it. They are still squirming about the decisions that cost them valuable points at Tottenham Hotspur last week, but then whoever heard of a team at the bottom having outrageous good fortune? All Colin Todd can do is restore Scott Sellars after suspension - and offer up a little prayer.

UVERPOOL, (probable; 4-4-2): B Friedel—
R Jones, J Cerragher, S Harkmess, SI Bjornebye—S McManerner, J Redinapo,
P Ince, P Berger—K Redie, M Cwen.
BOLTON WANDERERS (probable; 4-4-2):
K Branagan—N Cox, C Farctough, A Todd, G Bergason—J Poliock, P Frandeen, A Thompson, S Sellurs—N Blette, D Holdsworth.
Reference K Burne.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights. PREDICTION: Home win.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



lighting in their new image as the self-styled "boredraw specialists of Europe, but it

Keith Pike

Manchester Uni-

ted may be de-

was not a lack of flucies; or ambition that got them there in the first place and normal service should be resumed at Falls-borough this afternoon as the champions look to extend their ll-point lead in the FA Carling

Premiership. 'It's given me an idea," Ron Atkinson, in his role as ITV pundit, said on Wednesday as he watched United grind and lump their way to a goalless draw in Monte Carlo. "I'll see if we can get

for Saturday." The Sheffield Wednesday manager had every right to be fearful. A 6-1 hammering that Wednesday sustained at Old Trafford on November 1 spelt the end of the road for David Pleat, his predecessor as manager, who was



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

MANCHESTER UNITED

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

dismissed two days later. Neither can Atkinson bank on United suffering one of those post-European Cup hangovers that used to afflict them. Just as Alex Ferguson's team have learnt the value of a more pragmatic approach on have tended to show no ill-effects

next time out. Last season they won just three of their eight league games after such exertions: this season only Arsenal have managed to capitalise, with the other five opponents failing to register a

single goal between them. United have kept 16 clean sheets in 28 league games to boot, although Schmeichel will not be able to try to add another. The goalkeeper failed a fitness test yesterday, but Beckham and Gary Neville are expected to play. Irwin is definiteout, joining Pallister and

Atkinson, who has Hyde suspended and Rudi doubtful, cannot afford such luxuries, although after the 3-0 defeat away to Derby County last Saturday maybe the worst performance by any team I have managed" -would be surprising if Booth and Magilton were not recalled.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible; 4-3-1-2): K Pressman — E Barrett, J Newscorne, D Walker, A Hinchdiffle — J Magilton, P Atherton, M Pambridge — B Carbone — A Booth, P di Canno.

MANCHESTER UNITED (possible: 4-3-1-2)* R
van der Gouw — G Neville, H Berg, R Johnsen,
P Neville — D Beckharn, P Scholes, N But — E
Sheringham — A Cole, O G Solskjoer
Referee: G Barber.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, brief highlights. ■ PREDICTION: United win again; Atkinson keeps job nonethek



Brian Glanville For Southampton the good news and for Everton the bad news is that Ferguson will play no part

in this game. Guess what he is suspended, which must be a relief for Lundekvam, the Southampton centre back, who has recovered

from flu in time to play. Beresford, signed recently for Newcastle United, will be making his home debut not far along the coast from where he made his name with Portsmouth. Beresford's arrival at The Dell will be welcomed, for he has shown he can score goals as well as playing as an out-and-out defender.

Southampton suffered from silly defensive errors in the recent home defeat by Coventry City. That, and the decision to keep Le Tissier on the bench till far too

Southampton's icon has come back to form superbly and is certainly worth consideration by





SOUTHAMPTON **EVERTON** Today, 3.0 (sold out)

an England team that so pitifully lacked midfield flair and invention against Chile, the one proviso being that the team must be built around Le Tissier and that takes time, which was not given when Hoddle suddenly threw him in that night at Wembley

against Italy. Up front, Hirst and Ostenstad are dovetailing nicely. Hirst having got the winning goal last Saturday away to Leeds United. It is as well for Everton that their grand old warhorse, Watson, should return in defence,

having refused a transfer to Manchester City. What possessed Everton to decide to release him at the end of this season? Barmby, recovered from a

groin strain, will also be back. Until recently, this undeniably gifted footballer has been under something of a cloud, but he is emerging and could make bullets for Madar, the France forward and the quick, powerful

Cadamarteri, who is always good In midfield, Hutchison has arrived from Sheffield United. but Southampton surely have the edge. Southall's successor, Myhre, could be kept busy in the

SOUTHAMPTON (probable: 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, C Lundelvern, R Oryden, F Benall — C Palmer, M Oaldey, M Le Tisser, J Berestord — D Hirst, E Oalenstad. EVERTION (probable; 3-5-2): T Mytre — D Watson or C Short S Bis., C Tier — M Ward, N Barriby, D Hutchlann, G Farrefly, M Bait — D Cadarnarbot, M Mader.

Everton goal.

Referen: D Elleray. TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, brief highlights. ■ PREDICTION: Southampton to



Michael Henderson These clubs have recently shed managers in unusual circumstances and continue to carry

the English flag into Europe. Chelsea gained a good win over Real Betis in Seville on Thursday in the Cup Winners' Cup and Villa will live in hope of overturning their single-goal defeat in Spain by Atlético Madrid in the Uefa Cup.

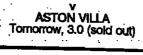
John Gregory, plucked from obscurity to replace Brian Little, and with a record that hardly inspires confidence, made an encouraging start last week when two goals from Stan Collymore accounted for Liverpool (one a deflection, the other from a rebound that almost hit him). The reverberations of that

game have been heard all week,

Collymore's accusations of rac-

ism being rebuffed by Liverpool

players. Ah well, we may never



CHELSEA

know the full story. You don't have to be a racist to dislike Collymore. The man damns himself by his own feet. Villa, almost as much as Liver-

pool, are the great underachievers of the Premiership. When they won the Coca-Cola Cup two years ago they looked ready to challenge for the big titles but, for whatever reason, they have failed to improve. Indeed, they have regressed.

Why couldn't Curcic, now departed, fit in? He has dazzling

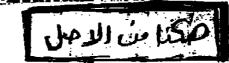
feet. How could Little think that, by splashing out £7 million on Collymore, he was making a sound investment? Cheisea are only slightly better.

To win the FA Cup in a lean year, as they did, is a commendable achievement, but not a great one. Manchester United have put them firmly in their place this season with two victories at Stamford Bridge of contrasting nature and, in order to qualify for European competition again. Chelsea will probably have to win the Coca-Cola Cup or, indeed, the Cup Winners, Cup.

Given the state of the field they will fancy themselves to do just that. Don't expect a classic.

CHELSEA (possible: 4-3-3): E de Gosy — S Clarks, F Leboseut, M Duberry, G Ler Saux — D Petrescu, D Wee, R DI Matteo — G Zote, M Hughes, T A Po Lights, T A Fo U Briogu, G Southgets, R Scimeos — S Grayson, I Teylor, M Draper, L Hendrie, A Wright — D Yorks, S Collymore, Retermer S Lodge.

TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Match of the Day, brief highlights. PREDICTION: 1-1.



IEA MAN WANTED

Proceeding to the

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Truth of Collymore fracas must be put in black and white

ell, it caused a storm, didn't it? Stan Colly-more's return against more's return against Liverpool was always going to generate its fair share of controversy, but I don't think that anyone expected the outcome of last

Saturday. Racism is a serious issue and it is important for me to state that it is a detestable attitude that has no place in sport, or in society for that matter. Everyone at Liverpool shares that view, from the players

to the staff. Anfield to support the Kick Racism out of Football campaign. We have done it with England as well and there is no doubt that racism is not the problem within the game certainly among the players - that

it perhaps was a few years ago. There is no room to be complacent, but if there is a problem, then it is generally in cases where, in the hear of a game, players say indefensible things about race. there was a bit of a shouting match and that Stan and Steve had a go at each other, trading insults. Every footballer accepts that there will be barracking and name-calling and lots of banter throughout a match — but racist comments should never be part of

It is up to players to set an example if we are ever to rid our sport of this problem. What we should be aiming for is an atmo-sphere where every supporter feels that he or she can come to a match We have gone to great lengths at and support their ream without unfield to support the Kick Racism feeling uncomfortable or abused in any way. The only way to start that

is with the players. Steve Harkness has said that he didn't make racist comments to Stan: I was the last person off the pitch at Villa Park on Saturday and I didn't see what happened in

each other, trading insults.

They continued their verbals from off the pitch. It happens in every match: a defender marking an attacker will have a go at putting his opponent off, and vice versa. It is part of the game. But Steve said that he didn't make racist comments and the Liverpool players have accepted that there must have been a misunder-

standing. The only thing that puzzles us is how this could have got into the newspapers, when it was something that only two people know about and have different opinions

Our lads have been fine about it. Harky has come in for a bit of legpulling and Phil Babb made the funniest comment when he the tunnel. I have been told that brought Steve a white blanket with



holes cut out as eyes to put on his

That wasn't flippant, it was a message that the players accept the misunderstanding. Nobody at Liverpool would condone racist comments. I can honestly say that it would never cross my mind to make any comments like that to any player. I might call him fat, or useless or stupid, but never anything too offensive.

There is still a problem of racism in society and it is important for footballers to use their public image to get the message across that it is wrong. There are people who hide among football supporters, using the game as an excuse to proclaim their terrible ideology, and professional footballers de-

plore that. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) has been at the forefront of the campaign to kick racism out of football. All players support that stance. The PFA has an important role to play in promoting the message and I believe that it is doing an impres-

sive and important job. At Liverpool, we have our own way of dealing with the racism

subjected to some terrible stick from opposing supporters when he first started out at Anfield. There was that disgraceful picture of bananas being thrown at him. What sort of person could do a thing like that?

One year, at our Christmas party, everyone was enjoying themselves when someone walked in, dressed in full Ku Klux Klan regalia. The place went horribly quiet and everyone feared it would cause great offence. Then the person pulled off his mask — and it was Barnsie.

Robbie's rotten luck

I was distraught when I heard the news about the extent of Robbie Fowler's injury. It is terrible for him, not least because it means that he will not be going to the World Cup this summer, and I know just how much that means to

He came to the team hotel before the Villa game at the weekend and I had to do everything for him, because he couldn't walk. I had to pick him up to help him into bed and even help him to get

Such a serious injury is a distressing thing for a footballer. It is the great unspoken fear among footballers, the injury that could end your career. To be honest, it is something that I never think issue. John Barnes used to be about. As a professional, you can

worry about an event that might end your career, or you can get on with it and just put it out of your mind altogther. I choose the latter course - because otherwise it could wreck your life!

I have had a serious injury, when I dislocated my knee. It has happened three times, but every time. I knew that I would be back quite quickly, with a bit of work. With Robbie, the problem is more severe. He has got the physical work, of course, to ensure that he gets back in top condition. But the problem is more of a mental one. When you are out of action for so long, it is the havoc that it can play with your mind that can be the

genuinely destructive force. You have to be so strong, mentally, to deal with the thoughts that go through your mind when you are inactive. The fears, the boredom, they all play a part in destroying confidence and plant-ing seeds of doubt. I was in plaster up to my thigh and that was a terrible feeling, just because I was

immobile. Robbie is a strong character and he is working hard already to get back quickly. I know he will come back in good shape and I will bet now that he comes back an even better, and stronger, player. We all wish him luck at Liverpool and pray for his speedy recovery.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

FOOTBALL Second division (15) Blackpool v Watland (16) Brentfard v Bournemouth (17) Bristol Rovers v Northampton (18) Chesterfield v Furtherm (19) Litton v Wycombe (20) Mithwell v Gallingham (21) Plymouth v Preston (22) Southend v Grimeby (23) Walsall v Burnley (24) Westhern v Cartisle (25) York v Wigan P W D L F A Pta Watland 35 20 10 5 52 29 70 Bristol City 38 20 9 7 58 29 69 FA Carling Premiership (3) † Liverpool v Bolton (-) † Shelfield Wed v Manchester Utd

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Nationwide League First division Manchester City v Oxford Utd Roading v Port Vale Stoke v Huddersfield Sunderland v Stockport

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Plymouth...... 36 8 12 15 42 54 36 Brentlevic..... 36 7 14 15 38 58 35 Burnley........ 34 8 10 16 40 48 34 Southend 36 9 7 19 36 62 34

Third division (26) Brighton v Hartispool ...
(27) Halt v Derington
(28) Layton Orient v Lincoln ...
(29) Macclestield v Rotherham (30) Marsfield v Shrewsbury ...
(31) Notts County v Barnet ...
(32) Peterborough v Exster

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Lincoln	36 15 36 15 35 14	9 12 8 13 10 11	42 55 50 47	41 50 43 33
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Shrwsbury Cambs Utd	34 11 36 9	10 13	44 45 37	47 47 30

Doncaster 36 3 7 26 22 56 15

COVERAGE

Valuariali Conserveros (43) Gelesheed v Kidderminster (44) Kettering v Southport (45) Leek v Famborough (45) Northwich v Hereford (47) Rushden and D v Cheltenhern (48) Slough v Hednesford (48) Stevenage v Statybridge (48) Stevenage v Statybridge (49) Telford v Hayes (40) Yeovil v Morecambe (41) Yeovil v Morecambe

Tennents Scotlish Cup Fifth round (---) Falkirk v St Jóhnstone (---) Hearts v Ayr ;.....

Bell's Scottish League Premier division (---) Duntermline v Motherwell First division

Second division

Third division

(---) Albion v Dumberton (40) Alios v Montross (41) Cowdenbeeth v East Stirling (42) Queen's Park v Berwick DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier division: Atherstone y Ashtord; Burton Albion y

Soro.

LARISOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Alfreton v Blyth Spitrians: Altrinchem v
Accompton Stanley; Bashop Aucliand v
Gansborough: Boston v Spernymon;
Emily v Colwyn Bay; Findley v Marine;
Hyde v Colwyn Bay; Findley v Marine;
Hyde v Chonley: Leigh RMI v Gusseley,
Radclaffe v Barrow; Runcom v Winstord.
First division: Bradlerd Pk Ave v Congleton;
Belper Town v Fieden; Bucon v Droylascien;
Eastwood Town v Netharheld; Great
Harwood v Lincoln United; Mittiley
Bay v Stocistoridge PS; Workington v
Herrogate Town; Workson v Farsley Celtic
LEAGUE OF WALES: Ceemarton v TNS
LO, Combran v Barry (2.0); Ebbw Valle v
Cemase Bay (2.30); Helar Cable-Tel v
Caersas, (2.0), Newtown v Aberystoyin
(2.30); Phyl v Rint Town (2.30); Welshpool v
Corney (2.30)
THE Talles FA YOUTH CUP; Fitth round:
Everton v Ipswich; Chebse v Blackburn;
Peterborough v Crewe; Arsenal v Leeds.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Suth-round replay: Tow Law v Sucbury Wand RYMAN LEAGUE Premier division: Basingstole v Carshalton; Crashem v Hendort, Depenhern and Redbridge v Aylesbury: Gravesend and Northfleet v Kingstonian; Harrow v Bromisy; Heybridge v Purficet; Hetchin v Bishop's Stortfort; St. Albens v Enfield; Stron United v Dulvicht; Welson and Hersham v Borelyan Wood; Yeading v Oxford Chy. First division: Abingdon Town v Molasey; Aldershot Town v Lothingde; Berkhamsted v Thame United; Billericay v Croydon; Bognor Ragis v Hampton: Leyton Perment v Chensey; Staines v Leatherhead; Wenthisty v Grays; Whyleleale v Barton Rovers; Wolfungham v Madienhead; Wenthisty v Grays; Whyleleale v Barton Rovers; Wolfungham v Madienhead; Wenthisty v Grays; Whyleleale v Barton Rovers; Wolfungham v Heighton Town; Egham V Berschnelt; Edguere v Leighton Town; Egham V Hungsrford; Merlow v Tooting and Mitcham; Met Police v Carwy Island; Northwood v Horsham; Baury v Braintee; Windson and Elon v Wealdstone; Witham v Wivenhoe, Third division: Clapten v Tring; Dorlong v Cambartey Town; East Thurnock v Laves; Flackwell Health v Homehurch; Ford United v Croydon; H Hempstead v Aveley; Hertlord v Epsom and Ewalt; Kingsbury v Herlow; Southall v Comithian-Casuels; Were v Wingste and Finchiey. ESSEX SENBOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Sensited v Seufern de Natering v Condon Rangers; Great Watering v Bornam Ramblers MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE; Premier division south: Cocidosters v Brook House; Harefield v Heringey Boro, Islington v Brimsdown; Russip Menor v Beaccrafield; Welthern Abbey v Amersham, Woodford v Hanwell, Premier division south: Cocidosters v Brook House; Harefield; Premier division couth: Cocidosters v Brook House; Harefield; Premier division couth:

Hoddesdon v Bedlord, Royston v Lindgon, Hoddesdon v Bedlord, Royston v Lindgon Colney, Toddington v Brache Sperta, Welvyn Garden v Pottars Ber Town.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgwesse v Bermataple; Brislington v Chert, Calne v Bristol Menor Ferm; Chippenham v Bedowell; Keynsham v Bridport, Ionington v Melischam.

COURAGE COMENSED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashtod v Asht. Chestington and Hook v Netherne; Craptised v Farnham; Cow v Fetham; Cranteigh v Merstham; Godalring and Guidotod v Bedford; Hartley Winney v Sandhusst; Viting Sports v Reading Town; Walton Cesuels v Cocham.

Walton Casuels v Cocham.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v
Sudbury: By v Febratowe Port and;
Gorleston v Histon, Solvent v Woodbridge
Town: Stowmarket v Greet Yarmouth:
Tiptree v Febrathern; Walton v Harwich and
Parkeston; Wrowhen v Hakteed.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First divialon: Lymington v Christohuch;
Aerochuchurs v Downton; BAT v Bemerton
Heeti; Brockenhurst v Totton; Cowes
Sports v Whichurch; East Cowes v
Romsey; Eastleigh v Andover; Gosport v
Bournemouth; Portsmouth v Thatchem
Town.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Foresters v Lancing: Salopians v Brent-woods. Premier division: Etonians v Carthusians.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Chichester v Burgess Hit; Esstbourne Town v Littlehamptor; Heilsham v Horsham YMCA; Hessocks v Mile Cak; Portfield v Whoelsawit; Rechtly Ringmer; Saltdeen v Shoreham; Wick v Pagham.

MINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First division: Chatham v Beckenhem; Corntrien v Canterbury; Cray v Dea; Crockenhii v Heme Bay; Favesham v Whitstable Town; Greenwich v Swanley Furness; Lordswood v Ramagate; Slade Gnen v Hythe; Tramsensaad v Erith; Turbridge Wells v Sheppey; VCD v Folkestone Invicta. COMPLETE MUSIC PELLENG LEAGUE-Premier division: Almondsbury v Benbury; Fairford v Knibury, Hallen v Shortwood; Harrow Hill v Bursham; North Leigh v Wantage; Tuffley v Didcol

Wantage; Tuffley v Didool
UHLSPORT LINTED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Stoffold;
Desborough v Kempston; Ford Sports v
Potion: Holbesch v Cogenhoe; Miritess
Blackstone v Buckingham; Northampton
Spencer v Long Buckby; Wellingborough v
Eynesbur; Wootton v Yadey.
INTERLINIK EXPRIESS ALLIANCE: Bioxwich Town v Boldmare St M; Bridgnorth v
Wednestleid: Chasetown v Helacowen H;
Kings Norton v Rocester; Oldbury v Pelsall
V; Rushall O v Kingpensley V; Stoperhill v
Willenhall; Stratford T v Berwelk W Mid
Police v Sandwell.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND

POUS V SAIDWEL

POUS V SAIDWEL

COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvedharch v Worcestero; Bolehall S v Kenlwarth; Chestyn Hay v Biston Community

College; Coleshill v Kings Heath; GPT

(Coventry) v Dudley Sports; Highgate v

Coventry Schinc Knowle v Messey Fer
Coventry Schinc Knowle v Messey Fer-

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: right inehn Counties east Leadure Premier division: Amoid v Pontefract Cots; Brigg Town v Amithorne Welture; Cucon Astron v Theckley; Escleshiff v Sheffield; Glasshoughton Welture v North Femby; Hatlam v Denaby; Hatheld Main v Ossett Town; Malby MW v Selby; Pickering v Ossett Absor.

Qesett Albion.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Afherion LR v Newcestle Town; Burscough v Citiheroe: Chaddelion v Darver; Glossop North End v Holker Old Boys; Kidsgrove v Prescut Cebles; Mossley v Nantwoh Town; Ramsbottom v Atherion Cofferies; Riossendale v Blacippon Rovers; St Helens v Hastingden; Vuzurhall GM v Sefford; Warrington v Marine Road.

BINCHT INST DANCE NORTH L FAGE IS-Senoro: Warrington v Maine Holad.
ARNOTTI RISURANCE NORTH LEAGUE:
First division: Bedirigton Terriers v Stocktor; Billingham Town v Seeham Red Star;
Duriston Federation v Northelletron;
Easington v Durhem: Jamew Roofing v
Consett; Morpeth v Guisborough; Murton
Billingham; Penrith v Crook; RTM
Newcestle v Shidon.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier di-vision: Coleraine v Ballymens; Crusaders v Cittorwille; Glenavon v Protedowr; Unfleid v Glentoran; Ornagh v Ards. Pirst division: Bellyclare v Bangor; Dungarmon Swite v Cartick: Larne v Distillery; Newry v Umawdy United.

Umavedy United.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Gillingham (10.45): Cambridge Lifd v Ipswich (11.0); Fulham v Queens Park Rangers (11.0); Norwich v Crystal Palace (11.0); Pertsmouth v Charlton (11.0); Tottenham v Milliweit (11.0); Westord v Southand (11.0); West Hem v Leyton Orient (11.0); Second division: Bournemouth v Bristol Cay (11.0); Shistol Rovers v Brighton (11.0); Swindon v Tottenham (11.0); Wimbledon v Odord Lifd (11.0), Wycombe v Barnet (11.0); Codord Lifd (11.0), Wycombe v Barnet (11.0); Totenham (11.0); Windbedon v Dodord Utd (11.0), Wycombe v Bernet (11.0).

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Nonseman v Cwl Sanvice; West Wickham v Polytechnic; Lensbury v Crouch End Vampires; Old Actonians v Caset Barnet OG; Loyds Barik v Old Parmiterlans; South Benik Poly v Carshalkon; Midland Barik v Alfazandra Peric, Cuaco v Cid Salessians; NatiVest, Barik v Old Esthamelens; Old Lyonians v Old Lakymerians; Bercleys Barik v Winchmore Hil; Old Parkonians v Old Salessians; NatiVest, Berik v Old Steolonans; Weston v Old Brombleans; Bank of England v Beraffrem.

A PREMIET YOUTH LEAGUE: Arsenal v Queens Park Rangers; (10.45); Chelses v Toterham (10.45); Crystal Palace v West Ham (11.0); Leeds v Barnstey (11.0); Middeabrough v Sheffield Wacheaday (11.0); Southampton v Wirmbledon (11.0); Postponed: Derby v Coventry.

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated Five Nations Chempionship France v Ireland (at Stade de France, 2.0)... Wales v Scotland

Allied Dunbar Premiership First division

Second division Blackheath y Bedford

Wakefield v Orrell								
	Р	w	D	L	F	Α		
Bedford	15				555			
L Scottish					394			
W Hardspool			D		396			
Rotherham			0		402			
Onei			0		388			
Waterloo					397			
Coversty					295			
Moseley		8			331			
Bleckheeth		6 5			358			
Exerter		4			247 278			
Fulcte		7			201			

Leeds v London Welsh (2.0) ... Liverpool St Helens v Lydney . Morley v Hernogate Nottingham v Wharledale Reading v Rosslyn Park

Second division north Aspatria v Lichfield Birmingham/S v Preston Grasshopper Kendal v Manchester

THWAITES NORTH: First division:
Bridlington v Tynedale: Broughton Park v
Wigton; Doncasier v Middesbrough;
Wigton; Doncasier v Middesbrough;
Macclesfield v West Park Bramhope: New
Brighton v Stockton; Widnes v Hull tonlans
MIDLANDS: First division: Banbury v
Legiton Buzzard: Barlers Butts v
Westleigh, Belgrave Syston; Branefstreet v
Stoile-on-Trent; Burton v Kanilworth; Camp
Hill v Scunthorpe: Derby v Mansfield,
Wohertermpton v Whitchurch.
LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Askaans v Guildford and
Godalming; Charlton Park v Old Colleans;
Cheshunt v Harlow; Norwich v Staines;
Russip v Wimbledon; Southend v Sutton
and Epsorn; Thanet Wanderers v Old MidWhightians; Thurrock v Bassingstoke
SOUTH WEST: First division; Brackens v
Mardenhead; Gloucester Old Boys v
Barnstaple; Launceston v High Wycombe,
Matson v Berry Hill; Parrange and Newlyn v
Stroud; Torquey v SI Ives.
CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University v

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University v Kanton University.

RUGBY LEAGUE NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pre-mier divisiors Askam v Sacdawords; Egremont v Heworth, First divisions Shaw Cross v Skirtaugh, Second divisions Crossleds v New Earswick, Featherstone Amateur v Siddal: London Students v Ecoles; Overden v Normanton; York Acom v Deverbury Moor.

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE First di-vision: Havant v SI Albans (at Havant College, 2.0). NORTHERIN LEAGUE: First division: Chester v Ben Rhydding; Formby v Swahwelt; Harrogate v Norton; Sheffield Banters v Durham University; Timperley v Neston; Wigan v Southport. DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Biossomieid v Otton and West Warwickshire; Coversity and North Warwickshire v Blownich; Edgbaston

Series; Noun and President Project
WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH
WALES LEAGUE: Bath Bucss v Taunton
Vale; Cheltenham v Bristol University;
Cevedion v Whitchurch Exister University v
Weston-super-Mare; Swansea v Robin-ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division

SSL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bournamouth v Beckenham; Chichester v Purley, Eastcote v Maddenhaed; High Wycombe v Anchorisns; Ramgarhia v Gore Court; Trojans v Richmond; Tunbridgo Wells v Farsham; Wintoledon v Heme Bay; Winchester v City of Portsmouth; Wolong v Old Whightens. Hamparhire: Andover v Bornes; Basthgstoke v Camberley: Blandford v Portsmouth; Hasternete v Epsom; London University v Goer; Old Mid Whightens v Spencer; Old Careleighans; Cated v Cheam, Kant/Sussec: Ashford v Sovenoels; BBHC v Old Willemstonians; Badey Invita v Eastbourne; Blackheath v Tutse Hill, Brighton v Lloyds Bank; Burnl Ash v Worthing, Folkestone v Mid Sussec; Marden Russets v Horsham; Middiston-Bognor v Old Holombetans; Newhawen v Old Borderians. Middy/Barks/Bucks and Oxone City of Oxford v Bracknet; Gerrards Cross v Staines; Heyes v Sunbury; Hendon

v Amersham; Uons v Ashlord, Marlow v PHC Chiswick, Milton Keynes v Faminam Common; Phoenix v Richings Park, West Hampstead v Newbury; Woungham v Old Kingstonkins.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cambridge City v Coolyx. Colchester v Calcion; ipowich v Cambridge University; Luton Town v Bishop's Stortford. Peterborough Tn v Sudbury Premier division B: ipowich and East Sudbury Premier division B: ipowich and East Sudbury West Herts; Norwich Cey v St ives, Old Southendian v Dereham; Redbindge and Biord v Bedford. Romlord v Bury St Edmunds REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England under-18 v Beeston (at The Stadium, Milton Keynes 4.0)

WÖMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pramier division: Ofton Terraquest v Hightown. Trojans v Stough; loswich v Sutron Coldield; Doncaster v Cliton Scottish Life. First division: Bradford Swithenbernk; Sunderland Bedans v Wimbledon. Second division: Sherwood v Wolving Swifts; Blueharts v Old Loughtonians; Poynton v Ealing; Aldridge v West Warvey.

WOMEN'S WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Newport v Carofff Alth: Newtown v UWC; Penarth v Swensee; Pontypridd v Colwyn Bey.

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Derehern v WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier

Coulth Dutwich v Hempostead; Horsham v Tutse Hit; Maldenhead v Reading; Winchester v Southempoin; Winchmore Hill v Hendon. West: Colwall v Yate; Exmouth v Hendon. West: Colwall v Yate; Exmouth v Leor Tumton Vale v Leorninster. St Austell v Pauconneith

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Leegue; Crystal Paleco v Chester Jets (7.30): Leocester Foders v Derby Storm (7.30): Manchester Glants v Worthing Bears (7.30): Birmingham Bullets v London Leopards (7.30); Watord Royals v Newcastio Eagles (7.30)

BOWLS: English women's indoor nations championships (at Hopton-on-Sea) BOXING: British and World Bosing Org-anisation Inter-continental super-middle-weight championships: D Francs (Basingstoile) v M Balter (Stoup) (at Revermend Lesuro Centre, Reading) ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-olls: Group A: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Sheffield Steelers (6 30); Newcastle Cobras v Not-tingham Parthers (6 30); Group B: Cardif Davils v Manchester Storm (6 35), Bracknet Bees v Basingstoke Bloon (6 0) bass v Basingsona escon (s.u.)

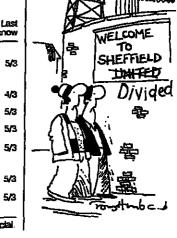
LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society
Leegue: Premier division: Cheadle v
Stockport; Heaton Messcy v Hulmeons.
Poynton v Cheadle Hulmut; Boerdman and
Eccles v Timperley: Shattleld University v
Old Waconians.

ROWING: Women's Head of the River race (Mortlake to Putney, 11.15)



SNOW REPORTS

	L	Depth (cm) U	Co Piste		Runs to	Wea (5рп		(Last
l ———								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	0	80	fair	varied	ert	cloud	0	5/3
l		(Pass	Thum pi	stes in go	od shape))		
FRANCE		•	-	•				
Avoriaz	115	145	fair	varied	fair	cloud	-1	4/3
					enerally sti		-	
Flaine	45		good	heavy	fair		-2	5/3
				l good sr				
Tignes .	100				good	fine	-2	5/3
					after rece	nt snow)		
Val Thorens	80			varied		fair	4	5/3
	6	Exceller	at skilling c	tay with g	ood visibil	lly)		
SWITZERLAN	VD.							
Verbier	15	150	tair	varied	wom	cloud	6	5/3
	(Good :	skiing a	bove ruin	ettes but	slustry low	er down)	_	
Villars	0	40	fair		closed	cloud	9	5/3
	(Glaci	er runs	very good	d but soft	in all other	r areas)	_	
						<u> </u>		
Source: Ski (Club of	Great B	ritain, L -	lower slo	xpes;U-ι	upper; art	- ar	ificial.



TELEVISION: Today: BBG1: Football Focus, Iram 12.20pm; Match of the Day (FA Cup and Premership highights, with extended highlights of Coverity v Sheffield United, Leeds v Wolverhampton and Liverpool v Botton), from 10.25pm (repeated tomorrow at 6.30em) Sty Sports 1: Spanish seagus (Inve), from 7pm. Tomorrow: BBG1: Match of the Day (FA Cup and Premiership highlights of all three garnes), from 9.55pm. TV: FA Cup quarter-linal, Arsanal v Weet Ham (Inve), from 2.35pm. Channel 4: Football Italia; (Ive), Irom 1.45pm. Sky Sports 2. FA Cup quarter-linal, Newcastie v Burnstoy (Ivo), from 4pm.

RADIO: Today: BBC Radio 5 Live: Coverage of an FA Cup tie in Sport on 5, from 1pm. Tomorrow: BBC Redio 5 Livre: Coverage of both FA Cup matches in Sunday Sport, from 1pm

Tennents Scottish Cup Fifth round Dundee Litd v Celtic (3.0).......

HOCKEY MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First di-visions Bournelle v Blueharts (at King

in the company car park?

Why be the odd one out

Second division AIB League Second division

The Audi A6 executive saloon. It's not for yes men.

Call 0345 699 777 for more information.

Audi O

† Arsenal v West Ham (3.0) FA Carting Premiership † Chelsea v Aston Villa (3.0) Nationwide League Third division Swansea v Cardiff (12.0) ..

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-finals women's World CUP: Quasions: Eng-lend v Germany (at Mitwall, 2.0): Ireland v Wales (at Carliste Grounds, Dublin, 2.0).

TOMORROW

Edward Girls School, Birmingham, 2.30;
Bromley v Chelmstord (at Priory Leisure Centre, Crpington, 1.0); St. Albars v Harrisson Alagolae (at Carence Paris, 2.0);
Harsant v Hull (at Haward College, 2.0); Isos; v Brooklands (at Easter School, 1.30; v Brooklands (at Loughborough Students v Firebrands (at Loughborough Students v Firebrands (at Loughborough Collegest of Westminster (at Sanbury Road, 2.0); Oxford University at Brookes University, Headington, 2.30); Sheffield v Gloucester City (at Abbeydale Paris, 2.30); Surbitino V. Lewes (at Supdan Road, 2.30); Wermagton v Stourpori (at Peniesth County High School, 1.30).
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division: Stough v Otton Terraquesi.

Dewsbury v Keighley (3.0)...... Leigh v Wakefield (3.0)..... Rochdale v Feetherstone (3.0)... Whiteheven v Hull KR (3.30)...

Club match

BASKETRALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Final: London Towers v Shelfield Sharks (at NEC, Birmingham, 6:30). Budwelser Leegue: Newcastle Eagles v Crystal Palace (6:30). ICE HOCKEY: Superiengue play-offs: Group A: Nottingham Paratiers v Ay Scotlish Eggles (7.0) Group B: Manchester Storm v Bracknell Bees (6.0); Basingstoke Bison v Cardiff Devils (6.0).

RUGBY UNION Bristol v Bath (3.0) London Scottish v West Hartlepool (3.0) WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford v Cambridge (at tilley Roed, Oxford, 3 (1)

CRICKET: WICKETKEEPER RECEIVES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

England prepared to leave struggling Russell in firing line

ENGLAND are continuing to accommodate the diminishing returns of Jack Russell and he now seems sure to retain his place as Test-match wicketkeeper. Yesterday, as the tour party delayed selection for the three-day game against Barbados beginning today. Russell was pointedly the one confirmed inclusion.

Russell has seldom completed a series without enduring a clamour for Alec Stewart to replace him. Usually, the justifications have been in team balance, a quest to strengthen either the batting or the bowling within a struggling side rather than any reflection of deliciences in Russell's game. This time, it is

It has not been a happy series for batsman, and he makes no attempt to deny it. Chances have been missed and his routine takes have been untidier than even the capricious pitches can pardon. He has also been conspicuously short of

SHANE WARNE took the wickets

of Sachin Tendulkar and

Mohammad Azharuddin to belp to

peg back India after they had

begun the first Test against Austra-

lia in Madras yesterday with an opening partnership of 122 between

Navjot Sidhu and Nayan Mongia,

which lasted until an hour after

Three wickets then fell for eight

runs before India rallied to reach

232 for five at the close, saved from

a more serious collapse by Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble, who

have so far added 37 for the sixth

Michael Kasprowicz made the

breakthrough for Australia when

Mongia, having made 58, slashed

at an outswinger and was caught

Sidhu, who was on 62, was run

out by Mark Waugh in the next

over and Tendulkar, who had

punished Warne severely while

scoring 204 for Bombay against the

touring side, fell to his fifth ball

from the leg spinner, brilliantly

head high by Ian Healy.

strong, however, and neither Michael Atherton, the captain, nor David Lloyd, the coach, is prepared to sacrifice him lightly. Yesterday, while coyly uncommunicative about other selection matters, Atherton was categorical about Russell. "Jack will play in this game," he said. "If you are asking me if he will definitely play in the next Test, I couldn't possibly say, but he's not the only one who maybe had a bad game in Georgetown

"Perhaps he hasn't been keeping wicket as well as he can but conditions have been very difficult. The West Indies' keeper has been struggling, too, Barbados tends to be a bouncier wicket and it will be easier for Jack here. I also think he is a very good player for us to have coming in at No 7."

This was a ringing endorsement, even if it is accepted that the present reasons for persisting with Russell have a good deal to do with protecting Stewart. As much the hugely respected by the opposition,

Dravid and Azharuddin added

56 for the fourth wicket before

India's captain also fell to Warne,

cutting him straight to Paul Reiffel

Gavin Robertson, an off spinner who was making his Test debut,

then trapped Sourav Ganguly leg-

before, after which the patient Dravid found a stubborn partner in

Warne was inconsistent and con-

ceded 69 runs in his 28 overs. The

pick of the bowlers was

Kasprowicz, who managed to ex-

tract both pace and bounce from a

good batting pitch.

New Zealand hit back after their

surprise one-run defeat on Wednes-

day to crush Zimbabwe by nine

wickets in Napier yesterday to

secure the five-match one-day series

match-winner, scoring his lifth one-

day international century from 136

balls. He and Llorne Howell, who

made 66, put on 147 as New

Zealand coasted past Zimbabwe's

Nathan Astle was New Zealand's

at backward point.

By Our Sports Staff

fifth Test, which starts next Thursday, have been obtained by English holiday operators. Officially, only 35 per cent of the Australia fight back as tickets can be allocated overseas. Unofficially, a black market has been created, with local agents buying tickets at the lower price level available for domestic pur-chase and selling them on as a profit Warne strikes twice

to English contacts. Several hundred temporary seats have been flown into Bridgetown -ironically, from England — but in keeping with almost every ground England have visited on this tour, Kensington Oval is anything but ready for the big day.

Kensington should at least pro-

Stewart's form and peace of mind

are paramount. Forcing extra duties on him now could critically under-

mine a side already damaged by

Stewart, who missed the pre-Test

fixture in Guyana, will play today

and probably open the batting with Mark Butcher, Atherton having

firmly indicated his preference for a

match off. Providing the facility

suits his needs, Atherton will spend

the weekend practising at the Wan-

Wanderers, one of the oldest and

most traditional cricket clubs on the

island, remained an all-white pre-

serve until the 1970s, which may

seem appropriate in a week when

Barbados is bracing itself, with a degree of resentment, for the arrival

of about 7,000 England supporters.

related industries is naturally im-

mense, but many Bajans are in-

censed that so many tickets for the

The boost to tourism and all

derers club.

underachieving with the bat,

vide better pitch conditions than those that England have encountered to date and the ground remains on standby to stage the sixth Test, too, though this situation should be resolved this weekend when two club sides will play a trial match on the controversially and belatedly relaid Recreation Ground on Antigua. If the pitch or the outfield is deemed unfit; a swift decision will be made to switch the venue, but officers of the Antigua Cricket Association are confident that they will keep their Test match.

Barbados will have six players with Test experience in their side today. The mood in our side is still confident," Atherton said, "because we know we can bowl West Indies out twice. We have proved we can beat them and we can do it again next week - but only if we get decent scores on the board."



Waqar inspired by reunion

PORT ELIZABETH (first day of five; Pakistan won toss): South Africa have scored 262 for seven wickets against Pakistan

IN CHOOSING to take the field yesterday. Pakistan were motivated less by the state of the pitch than a belief that South Africa's upper order is suspect, Indeed it is. The first five wickets fell for 122, four of them taken by Wabar Younis, before Hansie Cronje batted like the resiliest cricketer that he is.

Cronie, stung by Rashid Latif's remark that South Africa would settle for a draw rather than risk another defeat, made 85 before Wagar accounted for him, too. His partnerships with Pollock and BouFROM IVO TENNANT IN PORT ELIZABETH

well in excess of what had looked probable in the first session. Wagar, who finished with five for 64, attempts to vary his pace more now to cope with flatter Test pitches. This one was pretty slow. Both Bacher and Kallis were out without offering a shot, one leg-before and the other bowled. Ackerman was beaten by a quicker half and as a resolt of his own crooker had.

When Kirsten was bowled, his bat well away from his body. South Africa were 81 for four. The presence of Wasim Akram, who on his return to the Pakistan side was given choice of ends, was quite cher brought about a total that was sufficient to inspire Waqar. For the Paddy Upton, the team dietician.

twentieth time he took five wickets in Test cricket. He needs one more

Hudson brought off the occasional decent cover-drive and Pollock struck seven fours in an innings of 38, but not until Cronje was in partnership with Boucher, adding 57, did South Africa bat with any

sense of freedom.

Off the field, the United Cricket-Board, which bag to deal, with petitioners demand that more non-white cricket sensored beplaying at provincial and international level, said that it would investigate allegations that offensive remarks were made to members of the public during the second Test by Pat Symcox, Fanie de Villiers and

RUGBY UNION

club and

Saracens in a league of their own in London

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TWO London derbies, three tales of woe. Richmond, Harlequins and Wasps, struggling in the nether reaches of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, can only cast envious glances upwards at a Saracens, who will go four points clear of Newcastle, in second place, provided Wasps are their usual amenable selves away from home, at Vicarage Road tomorrow.

Wasps, masters of consis-tency last year and now just erratic, have stabilised at Loftus Road but have lost their past five away league games. The champions of last year will do well to match their pretenders in a match that could be a dress rehearshal for the Tetley's Bitter Cup final, with both sides kept apart in the semi-finals in three weeks. Since a mould-breaking vic-

tory by Saracens at Loftus Road last October, Wasps have had their limitations further exposed while the Watford-based outfit have become a polished act under Francois Pienaar, their player-coach. The place-kicking of Michael Lynagh, as so often, determined the outcome last time and Wasps know they will infringe at their peril.

Saracens coped without Richard Hill in their last meeting with Wasps. In the title battle with Newcastle. who play one of three games in hand against Sale on Tuesday, they must live without the England open-side flanker for the remainder of the season after his back operation this

Richmond are investigating a football tie-up to boost their fortunes. Reading FC are considering sharing their new 25,000-seat stadium, due to open next season. Tony Hallett, the Richmond chief executive, said: "Reading is only 35 minutes away by motorway. A full-blown ground-share would depend on how the numbers stack up. financially and in terms of crowds."

Where such a move would leave London Scottish, their co-tenants at the Athletic Ground, is uncertain. The exiles are under pressure to win promotion from the second division and they can gain a significant advantage if West Hartlepool, their nearest rivals for the second automatic promotion place behind Bedford, are beaten at the Athletic Ground tomorrow.

Richmond are away to ailing Harlequins, who are in the midst of their worst league run and need to avoid a sixth successive defeat today. An East Midlands affair between Leicester and Northampton this afternoon is followed tomorrow by the traditionally one-sided West Country clash of bottom-placed Bristol and improving Bath, who boast a 100 per cent record in 15 league meetings with their

neighbours. ☐ The ACT Brumbies maintained their unbeaten home record in the Super 12 tournament by beating Otago High-landers 34-26 in Canberra, scoring five tries to two. In Christchurch, Canterbury Crusaders defeated NSW

200

GOLF: PACE-SETTING QUARTET PUT THEORISTS IN THEIR PLACE AS QATAR MASTERS UNFOLDS INTO BATTLE OF THE GIANTS

Sherborne stoops to conquer rivals with record return



Sherborne: two-stroke lead

DWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards Manchoster Giants 84; Derby Storm 83

Newcastio Engine 99; Derry Storm 83 Newcastio Engine 99 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Washington 103 New York 90; Dalbs 119 Load Angeles Clopers 109; Milem 117 Houston 93 Milyaukee 104 Derwer 87; Proenix 102 Plante 99

HOPTON-ON-SEA: English women's indoor championeships: Two-wood tripless: Semi-finals: Handy Cross, High Wysombe (J. Wilberns, A. Cox, end L. Thetwell) by Atherley, Southampton (A Pearse, N Kernp. W. Linch 18-11: Preston, Brighton (J. Deering, T. Wall, S. Jones) by Notinghern (B. Mortey, B. Atherton, M. Lonass, 15-14 Final: Handy Cross by Preston 13-11 Fours: First round: Berthern, Gloucestershire (J. Suman, P Peachay, M. Pye and G. Smithy by Exmosth, Devon (M. Bleit, E Healy, C. Banter and S Harriott) 27-18; Blackpool Borough (J. Cropper, N. Melinson, P. Barker and D. Holly) by Mortey B. Harriott, 27-18; Blackpool Borough (J. Cropper, N. Melinson, P. Barker and D. Hunty by Morgen, K. Mete and J. Murrell) by Weston, Sussex (M. Chown, J. Mesver, E. Lawis and M. Raeves) 22-14; Egham, Surrey IA Ward, B. Crisp, L. Brownite and M. Raeves, P. Erschland, B. Arnason, V. Chapman and L. Stonter, 24-18; Cambridge, Chestarton (J. Morgen, S. Hall, J. Larter and D. Robjn) by Hoverin, Easee (M. Stozey, D. Lum, S. Keith, and D. Morsie), 17-18; Croydon, Surrey (D. Prior, J. Attanson, P. Devis and T. Barton) by Cochester, Easee (M. Marm, P. Foley, L. Tunnard D. Brown) 24-14; Edon, Newcastle (A. Whistaler, A. Hubbard, N. Crasp, A. Larthieb, D. Whistaler, A. Hubbard, N. Crasp, A. Larthieb, D. P. Devis, and T. Barton) by Benwell, Lescestarshire (J. Akthriston, Y. Thompson, P. Surron and J. Medick) 30-16; Cherwell, Odord (P. Maglery), A. Alfricand, K. Hauses and S. Lazey) by Moorifleet, Donast (A. Craspt, A. Larthieb, S. Bowley, S. Better and M. Richards), 16-15 (after debts end), Cusatter-finets; Escapyoul, Bowley, S. Better and M. Richards), 16-15 (after debts end), Cusatter-finets; Escapyoul, Bowley, S. Better and M. Richards), 16-15 (after debts end), Cusatter-finets; Escapyoul, Bowley, S. Better and M. Richards), 16-15 (after debts end), Cusatter-finets; Escapyoul, Bowley, S. Better and M. Richards), 16-15 (after debts end), Cusatter-finets; Escapyoul, Bowley, S. Better and M. Richards), 16-15 (after debts end), Cusatter-finets;

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birming-hart: English ABA linels (all 5rds): Super-hearyweight: A. Hamson (Repton) bt D. Redmond (Rover) is: 2 and, Heavy: N. Hosking (OAF) bt P. Lewis (Taurion) as: 2nd: Cruiser; T. Celley (Leigh Park) bt M. Cuarey (Bery Boye) ko 2nd. Light-heavy: C. Fry (Repton) bt V. Jones (Army) is: 4th leftdide: J. Peaco (Melington) bt J. Tette (Trumphi) pts. Light-middle: C. Bessey (Army) bt C. Froch (Phoenia) pts.

GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DOHA, OATAR

by a 3-1 margin.

picked up at slip by Mark Taylor. total of 207 for eight in 45.2 overs.

THERE is one difficulty tall golfers face that does not afflict those of lesser height. The length of their legs is supposed to make it difficult consistently.

have reached the highest level suggests that there is more than a grain of truth in this

CRICKET

(ndia v Australia

MADRAS (first day of live; India won toss): India have scored 232 for five wickets against Australia

Total (6 whits) 232 R K Cheuthan, J Shneith, H Singh and S L V Reju to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-122, 2-126, 3-130, 4-188, 5-195

BOMLING: Kesprowicz 21-8-44-1; Relifel 15-4-27-0; Warns 28-9-68-2; Robertson 21-3-63-1; M E Waugh 1-0-4-0; S R Waugh

4-1-1-14.
ALISTRALIA: "M A Taylor, M J Sheler, G S
Blowett, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, R T
Porting, 11 A Heaty, S K Warne, G
Robustaon, P R Rediel, M S Kesprowiez,
Umphrer: G Shenp (England) and
S Verileatairacyteven (India).

South Africa v Pakistan

PORT SLIZABETH (first day of live; Paidstant won loss): South Africa have accord 262 for

n wickets ageingt Palesten SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings. Barbet Ine b Worse

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
A M Bachet love b Wager
G Kissten b Wager
J H Kaffs b Wager
H D Advantum b Wager
A C Hudson o Moin b Mushiaq
W J Cronje low b Wager
S M Policok o Acher b Washin

tras (fb 2, nb 5)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-13, 3-36, 4-61, 5-122, 5-200, 7-257.

or rece, tricult, 1-257.

BOWLING: Westim Aleram 21-5-54-1; Wagner
Youris: 18-464-5; Acher Mehmood 21-747-0; Shoeth Alerian: 13-4-30-0; Mushtaq
Ahmed 18-1-65-1.

BARKSTAIN Americ School: Barcol American

PARSTAN: Asmir Schall, Seed Arwer, Igz Ahmed, Inzamern-ul Haq, Moin Khan, Azher Mahmood, "(Flashid Lati, Washin Ahram, Mushiziq Ahmed, Sheelb Akhase, Waqar Young.

Umpires: S R Dunne (New Zealand) and R E Koestzen (South Africa).

P R Adems and A A Donald to bat

ľotal (7 wida) .

INDIA: First Innings fN R Mongia c Healy b Kasprowic N S Sidhu run out R S Drawid not out

Extres (b &, lb 6, nb 4) li 18

Third Test match

First Test match

is always banging on about how hard he finds it to keep his arms and legs in synchronisation. But Andrew Sherborne and Ross Drummond, both 6ft 4in, the 6ft lin Anders Forsbrand, who has long legs and, to make matters worse, very short arms, and, late in the day, Paulo Quirici, a tall Swiss, all made light of such difficulties in the second

Sherborne, who rose at 4.30am to be ready for his 6.40am starting time, took full

of him, is an exception and he advantage of a morning with-is always banging on about out a breath of wind. He stooped to conquer the new course with a 64, a record.

Sherborne has a reputation as a player with a solid long game who occasionally has low rounds by virtue of some exceptional putting. This was evident on the 1st, 4th and 13th for birdies, where he sank putts of 20, 15 and 35 feet respectively. On the 10th, he chipped in from 25 yards and on the 16th and 18th he chipped close for birdies to go Il under par for a lead of two

who will be 42 this year and has been a professional since 1975, failed to secure his card to compete on the PGA European Tour last November. His most important days come at the weekends when, if he is lucky, he receives a lastminute sponsor's invitation to a tournament, as happened

Drummond, the slim Scot

"I am told that the plane of my swing is OK," Drummond, who had a wretched 1997, said. "My tendency is to tilt, to get underneath the ball and balloon it to the right.

Swinging like that tends to hurt my lower back." He struck the ball well,

benefiting, like Sherborne and Forsbrand, from playing early in the day. His 70 was much more solid than his 69 had been in the first round, when he missed seven greens and took only 23 putts. At five under par he comfortably beat the 36 hole cut, which fell at

A wind got up at lunchtime to make the course more testing. No sooner had it done so, though, than there were two outstanding rounds of 66. calmer conditions.

Swede, provided the first in a round containing 30 putts and seven birdies, the birdies the result of long, straight driving and deadly accurate iron-play. Then came Quirici, 30, who

is considered to have considerable potential. If he plays many more rounds in the manner of this, which contained eight birdies and two bogeys, he will be well on his way to realising it.

Ian Woosnam and David Howell came in with rounds of 65, both benefiting from

for them to maintain the plane of their swing and thus strike the ball accurately and That few golfers over 6ft 2in round of the Qatar Masters

theory. Nick Faldo, all 6ft 3in

FOR THE RECORD One-day international

New Zealand v Zimbabwe

NAPIER (Zimbabwe won tosa): New Zee land best Zimbabwe by nine wickets ZIMBABWE

G W Flower run out
C B Wishest e Asdie b Harris
M W Goodwin e Vettor ib Calms
"A D R Cemphall e Astie b O'Connor
A Flower e Perore b Nash
G J Whitsel b Nash
D P Viljoon e Rening b Nash
H H Streek e and b Hearts
P A Streng not out
Ednas (b 7, w 8, nb 2)
Total S Hearts
Total S Hearts
Total S Hearts

Train S Hearts

BOMLING: O'Cornor 10-1-53-1; Csims 10-1-39-1; Nash 10-2-29-3; Vettori 10-0-49-0; Hards 10-0-30-2.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zeogen lead interment senses 3-1.

SHEFFELD SHELD (second day of four);
Adelatic; Queensierd 289; South Australia.
275-7 (J. Stotions 63; C. Davies 55). Hobert:
New South; Wates 32; C. Fichwards 184, M.
Bevan 88; Taamenia 272-4 (J. Cox. 104 not.
out, S. Young 50). Perifix Western Australia.
196 and 237-5 (F. Campbell 100, J. Langer
57 not out; Victoria 157, (M. Altérson 4-38).

DISABLED SPORT

NAGANO, Japan: Winter Parelympics: Birdhor: 7.5km: Ment STISQ (calcusted time, reel time and missed shots): LWX (disabilities in both lower limbs): 1. A Brunet (Fr) 3 time 28.6sec (37min 25.4sec), 0. LWX (disabilities in both lower limbs): 1. Windows (Switz) 25.38.3 (30.47.7), 0. LWX0 (both lower limbs): 1. M Weymann (Gar) 32-11.5 (32-11.5), 2. Birdhor: Giase times: 1. A Schwatz (Gar) 25.58.3 (25.58.3), 2. Class bot: 1, F Hoefie (Gar) 24.11.4 (24.41.1), 0. Class one: 1, W Brun (Gar) 24.14.3 (29:12.2), 0. Standing: Classes

(28-28.4), 0. Classes LWG/8: 1, T Celsner (Ger) 25:23.0 (26:43.2), 0. Wornert; SITSIG: LWG/43I (poth lower furbos): 1, R Myldebust (Nor) 32:09.0 (32:00.3), 1. Bind: Classes five and three: 1, M Koheyashi (Jepan) 33:38.2 (34:18.2), 1. Classe over: 1, V Bertale (Ger) 32:09.4 (38:20.1), 2. Sanding: Classes LW2-9: 1, T Huster (Switz) 22:25.5 (37:44.1), 1. Alpine: stilling: Downhill: Women (calculated three and real time): Bland: 1, M Armo (Sp) 1:11.65 (1:26.61), SITSIG: 1, K Colomba (Jepan) 1:18.00 (1:34.37); 2. LW2 (disabilities in one lower limb): 1, Sitsimaler (LS) 1:23.77. LW3 (disabilities in both Lower limbs): 1/LWG (one poper limb): 1, J Kelchner (LS) 1:14.97 (1:16.87). Merc Downhills Blind: Classess one and three: 1, J C Mollina (Sp) 1:08.30 (1:17.63). Classe here: 1, G Pachelder (Austria) 1:20.35. Walton 71, 67. 138; R Wessels (SA) 69, 70; R Dunmmond 89, 70; P McGinley 70, 69; M A Jiménez (Sp) 72, 67; D Chopra (Sw) 71, 69; P Broadhurst 73, 67; J Sandolin (Sw) 72, 68; P Broadhurst 73, 67; J Sandolin (Sw) 72, 68; S Sawer (Sw) 72, 67; H P Thus (Sw) 72, 69; T N; D Clarice 73, 67; M A Martin (So) 70, 70; D R Muntz (Holl) 72, 69; 1 Gerbutt 69, 71; D Cooper 69, 71; D Galford 69 71.

EQUESTRIANISM PARIS-BERCY: Yokro World Cup: Prits des Ecolient: 1, Fidi du Fiaury (R Possoa, Br) 0 in 47.23; 2, Vellee d'Or (R-Y Bost, Fr) 0 in 47.77; 3, Gladys B (H Simon, Austria) 0 in 48.85, Best British: 7, Virtusi Village Nillo (G Billangton) 0 in 55,54.

FOOTBALL NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Oldhern v Bristol City. Third division: Postporsect Doncaster v Scarborough. EUROPEAN UNDER-16 CUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIP: England 1 Croatia 1 (st Kettering Town).

Thursday's late results FINANCIA S. C.UP WINNERS' C.UP: Quarter-timele, first log: ABK Althers 0 Locomoth Moscow b; Rost Beds 1 Crestees 2; Rods JC 1 Vicercz 4; Stavie Prague 1 VIB Stutiges 1 I. RYMAN LEAGUE Guardian Insurance Cup: Semi-final, first log: Oxford City 2 Borelmm Wood 1. Boreham Wood 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers 3 Westord 3.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham 2 Everon 1; Liverpool 1. Trammer 2.

UNAJET SUSSES COUNTY LEAGUE: First chiston: Selsey 3 Langmay Sports 0.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-finet: Cheriton 2 West Herr 3.

DCHA: Cetar Mesters: Louders after two rounds (SB and ire unless stated): 193: A Sherborne 69, 64. 193: P Curici (Swiz) 69, 68, 193: A Forabrand (Swe) 67, 69; P Sjoland (Swe) 70, 68, 193: 1 Woosratm 72, 65; J Townsend (US) 68, 63. 193: D Howell 73, 65; A Cottan 68, 70; M Resie (t) 69, 69; P S Tirwing (Den) 70, 68; M Turmicifi 69, 69; P

Cooper BJ, 77: D Gilford BJ 71.
MIAME Doral-Ryder Opers Leading firstround scores (US unless stated): 88: M
Brisby, R Stack, R Tway, M Calcasecchia, C
Starage, 88: T Tolles, L, Porter, H, Staton, J
Carler, D Martin, 70: K Penry, D Duest, S
Cink, S Apoliboly (Ass), A Been, J Micklaus,
B Gilder, M Lancester, T Herron, T Woods, J
Micrae, J Huston, B Langer (Ger). Other
accress 71: A Lyle (GS), 72: N Feldo (GS),
75: C Montgomerie (GS). HOCKEY

IPOH, Malaysia; Azian Sheh Cuc: Pratini-nary round: England 1 Malaysia 1; New Zasiand 3 Germeny 2 Australia 6 South Korea 2. INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Paldstan 3 India 4 (in Lahore). LACROSSE

Mil.TON KEYNES: National achools tour-represent: Farr Cup (seniora): Semi-finale: Withington, Manchester 2 St Setholo-mew's, Newbury 5; St Paul's, Heyminsmith 2 St. Helen and St. Katherine, Abingdon 0. First: St. Paul's 0 St. Barthdomew's 2. Watson Cup (unior): Semi-finale: St. George's, Harperden 2 St. Cotherina, Bramley 0; Halberdesheer, Morrnouth 1 St. Brandey 0; Halberdesheer, Morrnouth 1 St. Kethering 3, Finale St. watering V. Haberdeshers', Mormouth 1 St. len end St. Katherine 3. Finat; St. organs 1 St. Helen and St. Katherine 2.

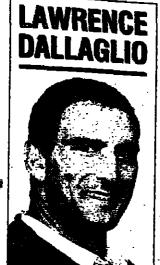
RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB MATCH: Postponed: Huddensielo Giants v Leeds Rhinos.

KUOPIO, Rinlandt World Cup: 120m: 1, A Widsobi (Austria) (127 Dm, 124.5) 255.2ms; 2, P Peterke (Slovenia) (127.0, 124.5) 251.7; 3, H Saltoh (Japan) (122.5, 123.0) 245.4

HOTHERMANE. HOUSENISM WORD INDOOR TO WITHOUT SHOULD SHOULD



Club and country can be assured of my loyalty



takes me to the end of next year. whether I would play or not is one Within that comment Wasps fully for Clive Woodward. support the principle of releasing & It is my intention to honour my

It is clear that Chris Wright (the club owner) and Wasps fully sup-port England rugby. We have provided this year alone the England manager, Roger Uttley, the England A assistant coach, Rob Smith, Pat Fox, the fitness coach and Phil Keith-Roach, the scrummaging coach. And I have had the honour of captaining the team. Therefore it continues to confuse me when I read about there being a huge and irreparable conflict between club and country.

It's not for me to discuss the contractural arrangements of En-gland's leading players with their

is no contest. I am captain . Wasps allows me to make myself of Wasps and have a available for both England training contract with them that and selection so a decision about

contract with Wasps. I can categorically state that I have received no official inducement from the Rugby Football Union, or anyone involved in English rugby, to sign a contract with Twickenham. I have never met a player who has

had to be dragged kicking and screaming from his bed to represent his country. Playing for England is not compulsory, you are not duty bound to serve. The last time England won a top

trophy in a leading sport was in 1966, well before I was born. As a country we still talk about former glories. The reasons why, in rugby, New Zealand and South Africa are England must fulfil their obligation to tour southern-hemisphere countries

consistently successful is not honour and I will honour what I because they are lucky or things are left to chance. It's because the right environment and structure are in

The game is at the crossroads. What happens in the coming months is crucial. People have to decide whether they want England to continue to make up the numbers or whether they want the team to compete consistently and successfully against the dominant forces in

world rugby.

The decision about whether other players tour is surely one for the England coach and that individual. If selected I would certainly make myself available. I am a man of have said I will do.

Last autumn no one from New Zealand complained about fatigue even though they had played 12 internationals in a year. They sent their best team so that our stadiums were filled. South Africa and Australia did the same. It would be disrespectful if we did not show them the same courtesy and pay them the same compliment.

I did not hear Clive Woodward deliver an ultimatum to the England players on Wednesday. If others felt that they had heard differently then perhaps they misunderstood what was being said. All Clive reiterated was that players had signed to make

mas internationals, the Five Nations and the summer tour. Now if some players find their club contracts don't allow them to tour then perhaps they should not have signed the England agreement. No one coerced them into doing so. If Clive felt he was picking players for the forthcoming game against Scotland who would not tour it would be a waste of his and England's time. That is not the way to develop a

World Cup-winning side. There has been speculation we may even have to field a belowstrength side at Murrayfield. All I can say is that no one would wish to see that happen, least of all the

It does seem amazing that we can avert a Third World War with Iraq but cannot sort out rugby union.
There is a lot of disinformation going on at the moment, a lot of agendas. But I am a firm believer that there must be some common ground. If it is a question of personalities then they should move to one side for the good of the game. I cannot act as a broker but what I can say is there is no division among the players.

I appreciate that within the wider picture there will be no speedy resolution if the two sides are not even prepared to talk to each other. It is clear that the arguments that are raging in the game are not a debate about club v country but about something far more significant - who controls the players and

ultimately the game.
I cannot predict what will happen but my hope is that we, the players can compete in a dynamic and competitive club structure and that side in the world. It can happen.

Five Nations Championship: Ireland, Scotland and Wales put tarnished reputations on the line

France prepare for grand parade

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

IRELAND, to their delight, brought the rain with them yesterday and turned springtime in Paris into a brisk, uncomfortable moreing. But neither sun, wind nor rain will be powerful enough allies to prevent France from winning the penultimate stage of their assault on a back-to-back grand slam when they play the Irish at the Stade de France here this afternoon.

Even the French reputation for combustibility, which, over the past 12 years, has broken out at international level on comparatively few occasions, will not come to the aid of Ireland. If there is one message that has been drilled home to the French this year it has been that of collective discipline. That was the rock on which England stumbled a month ago.

The other message is that the players must finish what they have started. If France had taken every opportunity that their inventive play created against England, they would have at least doubled the two tries they scored. Perhaps at that stage it was merely a matter of confidence, it being their first outing since the 52-10 defeat by South Africa two months earlier. imperative to maintain the shape of their game, to regroup swiftly and to reduce the number of turnovers. Against Scotland they lost the ball a dozen times in contact, even though they won the match 51-16.

"I have warned the players against losing their collective approach," Jean-Claude Skreia, the France coach, said. "There is no room in rugby for individualism. Anyone who thinks this an occasion for self-indulgence will find himself watching the match from the stand." While understanding Skrela's rationale, it would be sad if the French esprit de corps ruled out the sense of style that, at its best, has so frequently char-

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acterised their rugby.
One needs the cheek of a Thomas Castaignède, the bustling exhortations of a Christian Califano to add that indefinable splash of French colour to the Five Nations Championship, just as one needs the

FRANCE

Bernat-Saties (Pau)

amalson (Brive)

Califano (Toulouse

O Brouzet (Bègles-Bon

Palous (Toulouse)

mont (Perpignan

REPLACEMENTS: 16 R Dourthe Dutch:

Nomiers), 19 P Benetion (Agent):

20 T Clede (Pau), 21 C Soulette

22 M dal Maso (Agen).

17 LM Aue (Cestres), 18 F Gelthid

thanez (Dex)*

S Glas (Bourgoin) X Garbajosa (Toulous



New direction: Gatland, right, the Ireland coach, points the way forward during a training session in Orsay, south of Paris, yesterday

subtlety of a Welsh midfield or the raw-boned athleticism of a Scottish back row to bring character to the tournament. So what can Ireland bring to a party at which they are always welcome but never able to get hold of the goodies on offer? Their last victory in Paris was in

C M P O'Shea (London Irish) R M Welface (Saracens)
K M Maggs (Bristol)
R A J Henderson (Maggs (Bristol)

D A Hickie (St Mary's College)

E P Elwood (Galwegians) CD McGuirmess (St Mary's College)

V C P Costallo (St Mary's College)

P S Wallace (Saracens)

M E O'Kelly (London Irish)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M Lynch (Young

Gelwey (Shannon), 20 N J Popplewell

(Newcestle), 21 P M Clohessy (Young Munster), 22 R P Nesdale (Newcastle)

Munster), 17 D G Humphrays (London Irlah), 18 B T O Means (Cork Constitution), 19 M J

TODAY'S TEAMS IN PARIS

IRELAND . -

1972. Since Freddie McLennan, the Wanderers wing, scored a try in the 1980 fixture, the solitary Ireland try scored here was a penalty try in 1996. In the four games since 1990, France have averaged just less than 39 points a match, against 12 by

Ireland can, of course, bring a new broom this time. Since they opened their campaign with the single-point defeat by Scotland, Brian Ashton has gone as coach and Warren Gatland arrived, bringing with him a down-to-earth realism born of his New Zealand roots. Ireland have been here before, of course, when another New Zealander — Murray Kidd was the coach, but Gatland makes no bones about his ambition for this season. "We must regain respect from our opponents," he said. That has not been the case for several seasons and, at the moment, it's difficult to look be-

yond that." Given the margin of French victories this decade, respect will come from a performance that, as much as anything, restricts the home side but that must be more than the traditional blood-andthunder for the opening quarter. Ireland must find a way of blunting



RESULTS: Feb 7: France 24 England 17; Ireland 16 Scotland 17. Feb 21: England 60 Wales 26; Scotland 16 France 51. FDXTURES TO COME: Today: Wales v Scotland; France v Ireland, March 21: Ireland v Wales. March 22: Sociland v England, April 4; England v Ireland. April 5: Wales v Franca.

Castaignede and Philippe Carbonneau and that will be difficult if their pack is forced into reverse. Gatland must draw on the club

confidence of the Wallace brothers and Paddy Johns, from Saracens, and the familiarity of the Connacht half backs, Conor McGuinness the edge of the France half backs, and Eric Elwood. The latter's boot

weapon. But above all, within the short time at his disposal, he must have devised an attainable gameplan. There should be no highflown talk about keeping up with the southern hemisphere when there are foes nearer home who must be overcome first.

The other instructive element today, in Paris and at Wemble will be the displays of the referee There were distinctly mixed fee ings over the relaxed approach the two New Zealanders, Col Hawke and Paddy O'Brien, wh handled the championship match es a fortnight ago at Twickenhar and Murrayfield, ranging from the extreme praise of Clive Woodward the England coach, to those wh accused them of bringing Super

O'Brien, one of the touch judge in Paris today, believes that there i a happy medium that bot hemispheres still seek. Jim Flem ing, Scotland's leading official, wi bring a touch of rigour to the Stad de France, which should help Ireland if they rattle the bars of th French cage. But if the French runners, backs and forwards alike break loose, then the blue wave wi break over the green and wash

Self-respect may emerge as main Wembley goal

By GERALD DAVIES

THE results two weeks ago at Twickenham and Murrayfield have provided a strange and perhaps false perception of the games in the Five Nations Championship today. Certainly it is hard to imagine what to expect at Wernbley

There is a feeling abroad that whatever comes to pass between Wales and Scotland is irrelevant to the rugby-playing hierarchy and that the result should be regarded solely as being of academic interest. This may prove to be the case.

The remaining matches, therefore, cannot come round soon enough. This is not because of our undiminished appetite for international rugby, nor for the renewed excitement that visits to the various capital cities bring. Rather, it is because there is an urgent need to find the true validity of those extraordinary scores a fortnight ago and to put them in a more definitive context,

That England and France should score more than a half-century of Scotland respectively still reverberates to the point of numbing disbelief for those who continue to

Did England and France, with the margin of their victories, make a decisive break from the rest? Were the scores an outline of what should be expected henceforth from two countries possessing broader bases of playing power and greater riches? Or were they an aberration in which the two referees, because of their southern-hemisphere habits of ignoring the letter of the law for the sake of entertainment. unwittingly collaborated in sporting slaughters that helped, in part,

to diminish the championship? Time will tell. Perhaps England and France did set the standard for the future. But for the record books to have any meaning, the game, as far as it is possible, needs to be consistent. The two referees today hail from the northern hemisphere and their performances will be more keenly scrutinised than

usual. Such are the thoughts that domi-nate the mind above and beyond the dehate about the form of the teams today. Overall, we are unlikely to be any wiser this evening. Scotland have had a despairing time of it. Their victory over Ireland in Dublin served as their only respite in between being grounded before Christmas by both Australia and South Africa

and, a fortnight ago, by France. Wales's preparation for the championship had a more kindly feel. Barring their defeat by New Zealand, they faced Romania, Tonga and Italy after their summer tour to the United States and Canada. There was progress of a kind but, after the England debacle, Wales must consider this match today to be yet another fresh start. The Scottish and Welsh seasons remain somewhat shapeless. For what it is worth, Wales beat Italy; Scotland lost to them.

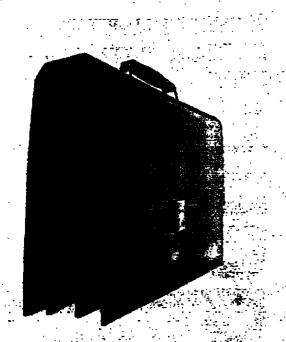
blance of continuity. They made only two changes after their last match and were forced because of injury to make another. Wales made nine changes in all and half of the pack has disappeared in the reshuffle.

If both countries are now cast as minnows, Scotland and Wales need to show that against each other they are capable of retaining a high level of skill. If the match is riddled with errors, the teams will only serve to confirm their lowered status. At all costs, they must not allow this to happen.

Both camps are spending their time talking up the opposition in order that each can motivate the hunger of the underdog in themselves. If not that, then respect is the word dominating their vocabularies. After what both countries regard as a humiliating experience. they want to regain their own sense of self-worth. No one can argue.

D J Lee (London Scottish) A @ Stanger (Hawick) G P J Townsend (Northampi A V Talt (Newcastle) S Longstaff (Dundee HSFP) C M Chalmers (Meirose) G Armstrong (Newcastle) G Armstrong (Newcastle) G C Bullich (West of Scotla M J Stewart (Northampton) D F Cronin (Wasps) G W Weir (Newcastle) R i Walnwright (Dundee HS
G P J Townsend (Northampi A V Talt (Newcastle) S Longstaff (Dundee HSFP) C M Chalmers (Melrose) G Armstrong (Newcastle)* D I W Hillton (Bath) G C Bulliach (Wast of Scotla M J Stawart (Northampton) D F Cronin (Wasps) G W Welr (Newcastle) R I Walneright (Dundee HS
A V Talt (Newcastle) S Longstaff (Dundee HSFP) C M Chaimers (Melrose) G Armstrong (Newcastle)* D I W Hilton (Bath) G C Bullioch (Wast of Scotla M J Stewart (Northampton) D F Croein (Wasps) G W Welt (Newcastle) R I Walnwright (Dundee HS
S Longstaff (Dundee HSFP) C M Chatmers (Melrose) G Armstrong (Newcastie)* D I W Hitton (Bath) G C Ballock (West of Scotia M J Stewart (Northampton) D F Cronin (Wasps) G W Welr (Newcastie) R I Waknwright (Dundee HS
C M Chaimers (Melrose) G Armstrong (Newcastie)* D I W Hillion (Beth) G C Bulloch (West of Scotia M J Stewart (Northampton) D F Cronin (Wasps) G W Welt (Newcastie) R I Waknwright (Dundee HS
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A J Roxburgh (Kelso)
E W Peters (Bath)
Captain
ié (France)
EPLACEMENTS: 16 R J S Shepi
delrose), 27 C Munay (Hawick),
8 A D Nicol (Bath), 19 I R Smith
Aoseley), 20 S B Grimes
Vatsonians), 21 G Graham
iewcastle), 21 D G Ellis (Cunte),

TODAY'S TEAMS AT WEMPLEY



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JULIAN HERBERT / ALLEPORT

RACING

Ardrina can book her place in Gold Card Final

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A GROWING belief that too much racing — most of it moderate — rather than insufficient prize-money is the underlying problem facing the sport is supported by a disappointing turnout at four jump

meetings today.

Just 213 horses have been declared for 27 races. Excluding three bumpers, the average field size is below seven and the smallest number of runners are in races with the biggest prize-money.

At Doncaster, the only meeting covered by television (Channel 4), four runners contest a £20,000 handicap chase five line up for a £10,000 handicap hurdle. while only six have been declared for the featured chase, also worth £20,000.

In theory, the smaller fields should make it easier for punters to locate winners but, as Ladbrokes record profits made clear this week, theory and practice tend to be worlds apart much of the time for

A golden rule this winter has been to follow the few yards which have been virusfree. Ferdy Murphy is one trainer whose string is in fine form and he has every reason for wanting to win the Wilsic Trophy Handicap Hurdle (3.05) with Ardrina as the penalty for victory would guarantee her a place in the Gold Card Final at Chel-

tenham_ A decent novice last season, she was found to be suffering from crushed vertebrae after two disappointing runs this term. After treatment to her back, the Ardross mare returned to form when winning at Newcastle and her breeding suggests today's longer trip can bring about further improvement. What's Your Story is consistent and will appreci-



ON TELEVISION

ate any further rain, while Miss Roberto ran to her best behind Dana Point eight days ago. However, Ardrina can

Anabranch has not stopped improving this term and, provided the ground does not become any softer at Town Moor, she can complete a remarkable seven-timer in the Mitsubishi Shogun Trophy Handicap Chase (3.35). With the front-running Marble Man likely to ensure a sound pace, the mare should have the race run to suit. Real Tonic prefers faster ground, while Native Mission is best over the minimum trip.

The fitting of a visor has improved The Toiseach, who completed a quick double when beating Mahler easily at Ascot. The handicapper has raised this front-runner 101b for that success and he looks worth opposing with Random Harvest in the Velka Pardubicka Grimthorpe Handicap Chase (4.10).
Mary Reveley's string is in

top form and her lightly raced nine-year-old looks well handicapped judged on his form last year. A good fifth to Speaker Weatherill at Doncaster five weeks ago, he was not suited by the fast ground last time, but should relish the trip and going today.

Sydney Twothousand has run respectably in decent novice company behind Erintante and Zaralaska and should help to make Lady Rebecca a backable proposition in the Stakis Casinos Series Novices Hurdie (4.40). Regarded as "a bit special" by Venetia Williams, her talented trainer, the mare won with plenty in hand at Cheltenham on her hurdling debut back in October. She can overcome an absence of 129 days before going on to greater things.



Tidebrook extends winning sequence

By CHRIS MCGRATH

THE courage and endurance of horse and rider were tested by what is fondly known as "good jumping weather" yesterday. Heavy rain had turned Newbury into a searching test, but Tidebrook flowed through the mire to a 19-length defeat of Mister Oddy in the Geoffrey Gilbey Handi-

There were some exhausted finishers during the afternoon, but Tidebrook did not need to strain for what was his sixth consecutive success - which is just as well as he only has a few days to absorb the race, his first in three months, before tackling

Festival

Kim Bailey, his trainer, said: "If it's bottomless, he will run in the twomile race, but otherwise it'll be the Mildmay. He was very fresh today, and that was why we were desperate to get a run into him. He's quite a hairy jumper to look at, back legs oing in the opposite direction to the front ones, but obviously you don't feel it on top." Bailey's yard is only just emerging from a bleak spell of coughing, and he confessed himself relieved that Tidebrook and Polydamas - who limbered up for

the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hur-

Unhappily, the same could not be

said of the residents of many other. Lambourn stables. One villager yesterday predicted "disaster" at the Festival with few Lambourn horses fit and fewer fancied. Suny Bay, its leading Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup hope, is typical in the way he is tormenting Charlie Brooks during these final, crucial days. Nicky Henderson is a happy excep

tion, as Calon Lan confirmed in the opener. The card's star turn, however, was from that flourishing corner of the racing nation, the West Country. Earthmover ran away with the Peter

either the Grand Annual Chase or Mildmay of Flete at the Cheftenham "come right just in time".

Hamer Memorial Hunters' Chase, preserving an unbeaten record when completing. It is his jumping that remains the principal flaw in his case as the leading domestic obstruction to Ireland's Elegant Lord in the Christies Foxhunters' Chase - and Polly Gundry confirmed herself to be anything but a hindrance with her neat performance yesterday.

Earthmover will join stablemate Fantus, who is seeking his third Cheltenham win. Richard Barber, their trainer, said: "He jumped well enough once he hit the front, but is definitely better on this softer ground. Fantus is likely to have a gallop after racing at Wincanton on Thursday."

DONCASTER

2.00 Non Vintage 2.30 EFFECTUAL (nap) 3.05 What's Your Story

3.35 Real Tonic 4.10 in Truth 4.40 Lady Rebecca

5.10 Durnford Bay

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING GOING: SOFT

2.00 PARDUBICE NOVICES CHASE (£3,527: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

641 THE MOOR 18 (F) Dies D Messon W Tompkas 7-11-7 ... 62 CARLLE 18 (Max L Taylor) Ms. L Taylor 6-11-2 ... 4052GP 100N WRITAGE 14 (D.E.S) (A Mann) M Clayman 7-11-2 ... 4-1101U POTTER'S GALE 7 (D.E.S) (A Poten) D Micholson 7-11-2 ... BETTRIG: 8-13 Politer's Gale, 7-2 The Moor, 5-1 Non Vintage, 10-1 Cabilla. 1997: SUBLIME FELLOW 7-11-12 J Osborce (2-1) N Hand

FORM FOCUS

The Moor heat Cathille (5th better off) 121 in 14-nonner maiden chase at Leicester (2m 11, good to firm). Non Vintage pulled up to novice chase grade if at Warwick (2m, good); previously 171 3rd of 8 to John Drumm in novice chase at Market Resen (2m 44, good). Protects Gate unswated nider in profess chase at Headingt Previously 171 and of the profess of Headingt Previously 171 and of the profess of Headingt Previously 171 and of the profess of the profess

POTTER'S GALE will be hard to beat if putting in a clear round

2.30 LIGHT INFANTRY PLATE HANDICAP HURDLE

BETTING: 6-4 Effectual, 7-2 Nichamira, 9-2 Executive Design, 5-1 Tochiba Talk, 11-2 New Inn. 1997: MORE DASH THANCASH 7-10-8 O Byrne (15-8 far) Mis M Jones B ran

FORM FOCUS

New Irm 171 5th of 6 to Red Blazer in hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft); previously 371 8th of 10 to Shahrur in handicap hurdle at Kerngton (2m, good to soft) Executive Design 181 4th of 11 to Februalidair m handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 11, good); previously 8141 4th of 9 to Cauther to handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good); previously beat Flord 6i in 9-numer handicap hurdle at Opensier (2m 110)q good). Effectual beat Desert Mountain 71 in 8-numer handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good); previously 841 2nd of 7 to Marvieno in covice handicap hurdle at Lockov (2m, soft). Toshiba Talk 111 5th of 8 to Archina in handicap hurdle at Meetnestie (2m 44, good).

EFFECTUAL won impressively last time and can overcome an 8th rise in the handicap

COURSE SPECIALISTS % JOCKEYS

3.05 WILSIC TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (£6,682: 3m 110yd) (5 runners) 301 41/P1-F TENNESSEE TWEST 14 (D.G.S) (Halemood Lin) Mrs J Pinnan 8-12-0 ... D Lushy P65-350 .UNCLE DOUG 25F (G.S) (D Sun) J Eyer 7-11-7 ... Mr C Michael (S) 303 114-PP1 AROBINA 14 (E.S.) (L.G. Mi Rostod) F Marphy 7-11-5 ... Mr C Michael (S) 304 340-231 WHATS YOUN STORY 28 (E.S.) (L.Windle P R Whatser 9-11-5 ... R Gambly 305 4123134 MISS ROBERTO 8 (G.S.) (M Limit & Pann) J O'Shim 5-11-2 ... Michael Stromen (S)

1997: FALING COURT 8-10-0 J Osborna (9-2) N Babbaga 7 rao

on well to win at Newcastle and should relish this extra half-mile

3.35 MITSURISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE

1997: FFECROLEY-11-10-10 P Carbony (9-1) G Richards 8 can heative Mission 23/5th of 7 to Cumbrian Challenge in handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good); previously 19/6th of 9 to Jeffell in handicap chase grade 2 at Ascot (2m, solf). Anabranch beat Malysari neck in 9-runner handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3/110yd, good); previously beat Cumberland Blues 31 in 4-runner handicap chase at Cuterlok (2m, good to solf); previously beat in 1mth 19/1 in 7-runner handicap chase at Martel Resen (2m 44, good); previously 29/1 3rd of 11 to Ask Me Later in handicap chase at Mancastle (3m, good), Marble Main beat Stormy Coral 41 in 5-runner handicap chase at Carriste (2m, solf).

ANABRANCH, unbeaten to six starts over fences, can maintain the sequence

4.10 velka pardubicka grimthorpe handicap chase 2004 (£13,511: 3m 2f) (6 runners) 4346-PO SCOTTON BANKS 14 (CD.G.S) (I Bray) T Exsterby 9-12-0 _______ P Carbotry
111-2PP COLONEL IN CHEF 55 (G.S) (R Ogden) B Richards 8-11-0 ______ P Carbotry
2-11311 THE TOSSACAI 24 (V.C.F.G.S) (T & J. Ventey) J Farstaine 7-10-6 _____ A Dobbin
1211U11 GALATASON JANE 14 (D.F.G) (B Ellemen) P Hichols 6-10-7 _____ T J Morphy
dTPU-833 RARDOM HARVEST 18 (6) (C Buckley) Mrs M Revolog 9-10-1 _____ A Maguins
2324222 IN TRUTH 21 (BF.G.S) (Mrs E Houlton) S Gollings 10-10-0 _____ Mr S Dozack (6)

BETTING: 5-4 The Toismack, 4-1 Colonel in Chief. 9-2 Rendom Harvest, 6-1 Galaizzoni Jane, 7-1 in Truth, 16-1 Scotton Binds 1997: FATHER SKY 6-10-11 J Osbose (9-2) O Sheacod 8 cm

Scotton Banks 44 8th of 11 to Domains De Pron in handless these at Newcastle (4m 11, good). The Toiseach best Mahler 28 in 5-noner powice chase good if at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). Galatasont Jane best Birdonnioth 14 in 3-numer nonice chase at Warnek (2m 71 110yd, good in fam). Harvest 191 3rd of 4 to Macgacrye in handless chase at Neftest Resen (2m 71 110yd, good in fam). In Troth 141 2nd of 7 to Easthorpe in handless chase at Market Resen (2m 71 110yd, good in fam). In Troth 141 2nd of 7 to Easthorpe in handless chase at Market Resen (2m 41 110yd, good in fam). In Troth 141 2nd of 5 byester Washers in handless chase at Market Resen (2m 41 110yd, good in fam). In Troth 141 2nd of 5 byester (4b) better off) 161 5th and Colonel in Cited (levels) pulled up. THE TORSEACH, who jumps and stays well, can complete a treble

113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) & Half 12-8 . Racacard number: Shr-ligare kvm (F — \$40. P — palled up. U — unswised rider, B — inrospht down. S — slipped up. R — subsect of supplified). Horse's teams. Days since lest outling: F if flat, (B — bipdars, V — visor. H — band. E — Eyeshield. C — couste winder. D — distance winner. D — couste winder. namer. BF — heaten favourité in latest race). Going ou which horse has son (F — fizza, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — solt, good to solt. hardy). Owner in brachest, Trainer. Age and weight. Fister plus any attowance. Tismiseuper's speed ration. 4.40 STAKIS CASINOS SERIES NOVICES HURDLE (ES.468: 2m 41) (7 numers)

2/111-1 LADY RESECUT 129 (6.5) 050 P. LIEO LXXX.RX gard y massing to 10-553 SPRIT OF STEEL 25 SS (B Samuel-Bound) T (A SAMUEL BOUND) T (A SAM

Sychey Twothousand 151 GB of 15 to Zaziesta in novice burdle at Newtony (Zin 110yd, geod). Doyenne beat Island Sanchuny 151 in 9-hunner dyn novice bordle at Doncaster (Zin 44, good to firm) with Sun Allert (61b better off) 41 46h.

LADY REBECCA is well regarded and can book her dictied to the Cheltenhars Festival

5.10 TOWN MOOR STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,329: 2m 110/x1) (18 (connexts)

1 6-15 CAMDIEN MOON 32 (BF,D.G) (J Hausson) J Hanson 5-11-11 Mr S Durack (5)

2 6-BACK ON THE JUSH 441 (J Hespoth Law-Life Reace) Mrs. Williams 6-11-4 S (ably 17)

3 BOUFARR MORTH (Berlin Shed Life M W Estatoly 5-11-4 P Allicipy (4)

4 CASH FOR CILESTIONS (P Creasurel) R Falsay 6-11-4 F Losby (3)

5 DEFINEC COUNSEL (A School 6 Rechards 6-11-4 B Handing

6 DURACE (A School 7 Indiated-Drives 5-11-4 J Beldshin (7)

7 SP JAFFA 20P (Juls R Worself) Miles J Worself 6-11-4 Mrs. J Worself (7)

8 JUST CLYUE (Jahn M Respond) P Benarous 6-11-4 Mrs. J Berlin (5)

9 SONTRA RORS (F Downer) J Picherry 6-11-4 Mrs. J Berlin (5)

10 STICKY SAM SHANSSON (A Peaser 8 C Blossy J J Cains 5-11-4 E Callignam:

11 B OTTERBURN LIAD 28 (R Hegges) Mrs. J Brown 5-11-4 Mr C Blosser (9)

12 PARLANCA BAY (Mrs. L Tecnson) Mrs. J School J J Cains 5-11-4 E Callignam:

13 STICKY MOMERIS B E S T Rescond A Streets 6-11-4 Mr C Blosser (9)

14 424 WOUDFRED GALE 49 Jain M Schooley Mrs. M Revelly 5-11-4 G Len

15 GENERAL OF Mrs. J School M Schooley Mrs. M Revelly 5-11-4 G Len

16 COME AND RIM (Wilson Bloodshock Lid) M W Estatoly 4-10-10 P Mrs. M Hospools (5)

17 HAMAMAK I J Joyn W McLisons 4-10-10 Mr K R O'Ryen (7)

18 COMFAREALIM 28 (J Bray) H Woothness 4-10-10 Mr K R O'Ryen (7)

18 COMFAREALIM 28 (J Bray) H Woothness 4-10-10 Mr K R O'Ryen (7)

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1997: LANDLER 4-10-9 E Calleghen (33-1) J Morton 13 run

1997: LANDLER 4-10-9 E Calleghes (33-1) J Hoston 13 Res

Carnelen Moog 201 5th of 15 to Rockeburg in NH flat race at Masselburgh (2m, good), Back On The Lash 611 10th of 14 to Silde On in NH flat race at Haydock (2m, good). Durnford Bay 221 10th of 22 in NH Masselburgh (2m in NH flat race at Kampton (2m, good to soit), Woodfleid Galle 111 4th of 25 in NH Bussiy in NH flat race at Kempton (2m, good to soit), Bellisario 51 4th of 22 to Pency Parkeeper in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soit). Owtatheation 131 2nd of 21 to Crazy House in NH flat race at Welfreiby (2m, good) with Otterburn Lad (2th better oft) 471 9th. CAMPLEN MOON is best of those with experience but valuesable to a newcomer \cdot

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster -Going: good to soit

2.30 (Shr ch) 1, Organ Recibil (M Branton, 5-4 fav); 2, Sharp Commund (190-30); 3, Kol-lew (5-1), 7 nm, NP; Our Kha, 2NI, clat. O Brannian, Tota: 52.20; 52.50, \$1.60. DF-

3.50 (2m 110 or bole) 1. George Diffugitars (f. Gliste), 4-7); 2. Dept Berkley (8-4 lant); 3. Hon's Honor (8-1); 1. Honey (8-5 lant); 3. 12. 81. Diffugit Springs; (2m, 98-20; 21 70, 21.80, 21.80, 8-28-40; 1100; 215.20, CSF

RICHARD EVANS Nan: Mon Amic (4.15 Warwick)

The form of Mon Amic's received victory at Langfield has worked out well with the second and fourth-placed terms whiling since, and he weighten the place of the control of

(4.40 Doncaster)

7-2; 2, Nordic Princs (7-4 fest; 3, The Full Morely (10-1). 10 ran. NR: Second Fiddle, Squaddle, 3-4, 161. T Forster Tota: £4 40; £1.80, £1.10, £2.20: DF: £4.70. CSF £9.90. 17.80, (1.10, §2.00 b); (A. rotic Life (Mr. D.S. Jones, 20-1); 2. James The First (4-1); 3. My Mornites (18-7). Autom Casis (1-1 da 1-1 5.00 (2m 110yd 8ag 1, Sahara Fleem (D Byrne, 20-1); 2, Threads (13-2); 3, Little Twig (16-1), Many Gaie 5-2 taw 11 ren 3%], 27, J Norton, Toter 238 40; 25,70, 22-90, 21 50 DF: £104.70. CSF: £142.97. Tric: £208.90 Jackpot: 928,770.80 (0.2 winning tickets. Pool of 932,417.87 carried forward to Doncaster Loday).

2.20 (3m 1l ch) 1. Swambleter (R Supple, 8-11 fav); 2. Callernoy (9-1); 3, Kings Lane

Piecepot £88,40. Quedpot £47.20. Kelso Golog: good

CSF: 27.26
2.50 (2m 1:10)/d hollo! 1. Heritage (P. Carbern, 10-11 lan); 2. Job Rage (SC-1): 3. Marraud (7-2): 13 ran B: VJ. Mrs S Brannall Total: 2.70 (2.70); 2.10 (2.75 (2.70); 2.70 (2.7

4.50 (2m 2f hole) 1. Omyourown N.S. Sneith. 20-1); 2; Common Sound (9-2); 3. Brambles Way (3-1), 5 ran, NP. Preside To Fame. 17, 36(, J.Honard Johnson Tole, £19.50, 55.80, 22.00 DF: £27.40, CSF. £22.00 Piscapot: £128.60. Quadpot: £97.20.

Newbury

Going: soft 2.10 (2m 110yor hole) 1, Calon: Lan (M A Pitzgerald, 7-2), 2, Phar Better (10-11 lsv); 3, Chicago: Caly (100-30), 9 ran 6, 4, N Henderson Tote E 10, £1 10, £1 20, £1 30, DF £3 10, Tho £2 10 CSF £6 30 DF £3 10. Thio £2 10 CSF £6 30
2.40 (Sm ch) 1. Majors Legacy (A Thornson, 11-4; Richard Evenis's nep) 2. Perincaler (14-1); 3, Greville Agent (4-1) Knight's Crest 5-2 tax 8 ran. NR: Cool: Runner, Mountain Path, Spring To Glory 141, sh hd T Forster. Tote: £3 60; £1 10, £3.20; £1 40 DF £31 30. Thir £36.30 CSF £33.83. Tricost £136.90
3.10 (2m 1) ch) 1. Tidebrook (N Williamson, 2-1 p-lax); 2. Misser Cody (£-1 g-lax), 3. Cooltoon Hero (8-1) 5 cm 159.4 K Bleidy Tote. £3 10; £1 30, £1.60. DF £2.80 CSF £5 67
2.40 (2m 5) hdiel 1. The Provent (*1 hausterness)

25 67
3.40 (2n 5l holle) 1. The Proms (C Llowellyn, 11-2); 2. Radley Wood (7-2); 3. Groon Chaseder (4-1) Ernest William 5-2 lav 7 ran NR Native Store 7, 1 M. N Twiston-Davies. Total: 56-90: 52-60; 51-80. DF 512-97 CSF \$23.47 Thoset 277 71 2.53.97 (ncast £77.71 4.10 (3m ch) 1, Earthmover (Mes P Gundry, 8-15 fay); 2, Holland House (15-8); 3, Mighty Falcon (14-1) 5 ran. NR Vital Song Dist, dat R Barber, Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.40 DF £1.50, CSF £1.83.

MGDON

£1 50. CSF £1 83.

4.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. Peverii Pendragoni (S Fort, 33-1); 2. Quildre (6-4 tay); 3. Foreign Rule (9-2); 7 ran NR. Announcing, Meteor Saiste, Soy Knoll, Time Project, Wast And See, 11, 41. G Balaing, Tota: £40.60; £8.60, £1 40. DF: £42.00 Trix: £29.00. CSF £73.87 5.10 (2m 5t hdle) 1. Royal Anotic (Chris Webb, 3-1 fav); 2. Lyphard a Fable (10-1); 3. Country Mirristral (10-1) 7 ran NR. Guest Alliance, Peolings. \$1, 41 S Melior. Trix: £51.40.

Pleospot: £12.60.

Quadopt: £7.40.

Nose clip has first airing

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS by muscle," Branton said.

When the horse is galloping

and in rhythm with its breath-

ing, the nostril opens and shuts. If they get 50 per cent of possible air flow when the

nostril shuts and 100 per cent

A NOSE clip, similar to that worn by Liverpool footballer Robbie Fowler, will be used by a horse for the first time in a race today. Interpretation, a 12-year-old gelding trained by leading point-to-point handler Victor Dartnall in Devon, will wear the device at the Ottery St Mary meeting, near Exeter. If the test proves a success, the nose clip could become a

standard piece of equipment, not only for racehorses but also eventers and other highperformance horses. Its inventor is Jakes Branton, 45, a South African doctor, who has lived in Britain for four years and has

had a life-long interest in horses. The only part of the airway not supported by bone is the nostril, which is flared



when its open, that averages out at 75 per cent of the potential air intake." Known as Equinair and fitted to the horse's bridle at the noseband, today's proto-type is made of aluminium but future models will come in

thermoplastic. While Interpretation, who won his last race, is a guinea pig today, it is hoped the clip will help horses with breathing difficulties and tackle the common problem in race-horses of breaking blood

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Newton Abbot (first race, 2.00), Southwell (AW, 2.15). TUESDAY: Exster (2.20), Lelcester (2.10), Sedgefield (2.00). WEDNESDAY: Bangor (2.20), Catt-erick (2.00), Southwell (AW, 2.10). THURSDAY: Carllele (2.00), Towc-ester (2.10), Wincanton (2.20). FRIDAY: Ayr (2.10), Market Rasen (1.50), Sandown Park (2.00). SATURDAY: Ayr (1.30), Chepstow (BBC, 1.15), Sandown Park (C4, 1.55), Wolverhampton (AW, C4, 2.20).

Flat meetings in bold

Heavy patches at the East Devon meeting has ruled out national champion Butler John, leaving his rider, Neil Harris, with just one ride, Hensue, in the intermediate. Magnolia Man, a stalwart for Harris, has a leg injury and misses the rest of the season, a real blow as wet conditions would have suited the gelding

Long franciscus: in Truth 9-2.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Beaufort at Didmerton, 6m SW of Tetbury (inst rece 12:30); Childd, Lee & Cowdray, Parham, 4m S Putborough (12:46); Cumbertand Farmers, Delation, 4m S of Carlisle (12:30); Derward, Charm Perk, 6m SW Scarborough (12:00); East Devon, Ottery St Mary, 1m S of town (12:00); Sir WW Wynns (postponed); Waveney Harriera, Highen, 8m NE Colchester (10:00). TOMORROW: Blankney, Southwell, reside NH course (12:30); Ross Harriera, Garnora, 8m W Herelard (12:30); Ross Rambection Spin botsy); Staff College & RIMA Drag, at Twessidown, Sm W Aldershot (12:30).

SPECIALISTS

HUNTINGDON: Trainers: P Hobbs, 5 winners from 15 numbers, 35.7%; M Pipe, 8 from 25, 32.0%; K Bailey, 19 from 65, 27.9%; T Forster, 14 from 55, 26.5%; Jockeys: R Durwoody, 15 warners from 71 ides, 21.3%; M Brantan, 8 from 52, 15.4%; W Marston, 7 from 58, 12.1%. WARMCC Trainers R Wildes, 3 from 4, 75.0%; T Casey, 4 from 14, 28.0%; J Spearing, 6 from 23, 28 1%; G Hubbard, 6 from 20, 25 0%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 19 from 46, 41.3%; N Williamson, 17 from 73, 21 5%; G Bradley, 7 from 54, 13.0%; B Powell, 9 from 70, 12.9%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: D Loder, 11 from 31, 35.5%, M Johnston, 57 from 258, 22.1%; G Bawery, 4 from 21, 19.0%; P Hastern, 39 from 210, 18.6%, Jockeyes, J Hower, 58 from 270, 21.0%; O Pawes, 6 from 34, 17.6%; J Egan, 15 from 94, 18.0%.

THUNDERER 1.45 Stanmore. 2.15 Redeemyourself. 2.45 Halone. 3.15 Easthorpe. 3.50 Top Note. 4.20 Mutanassib. 4.50 Party Leader. Timekeeper's top rating: 2.45 KINGSFOLD PET. GOING: SOFT (CHASE COURSE); HEAVY (HURDLES) SIS

1.45 JACK O'NEWBURY HOVICES CHASE (£2,986; 2m 4f) (5 runners) ns A racquesso 194 2-1 Trisbium's Image, 5-2 Stannors, 3-1 Bold Delphin, 11-2 Dual Or Bast, 10-1 June.

2.15 BERKSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE

11W41 MACSECRRE 19 (F.C.S) R Lar 8-11-10 A Trootton 124
2 (POP GREENRI, TARE AWAY 28 (D.F.C.S) P Hobis 19-11-9 S Michael 110
3 F32 REDFERMYOURSEF SO (C.C.S.) J Grand 9-11-5 M A Regarded 14-12 A CHARDWAN WARRIOR 18 (E.S.) R Roset 11-11-2 O (TSubbac 5-11-1 R Johnson 140 2-1 Macagorge, 5-2 Halchern Boy, 11-4 Yeorgan Wardor, 11-2 Radies 12-1 Granghii Tart Anny.

2,45 WITNEY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,883: 2m 110yd) (5)

9-4 Easy Listening, 5-2 Halona, 11-4 Kingstold Pet, 6-1 Lightening Lad, 8-1 Bless Me Setter.

1 2P4 EASY BUCK 14 (CD.F.G.S) C Moderch 11-12-0 __A Thomson 79 __2-P5 (GOLDEN SPRINGE) 21 (CD.R.S) M financism 11-12-0 __M A Regueral 123 __3 F-P5 TOO PLUSH 15 (CD.F.G.S) A Tested 9-11-4 __L L Henry 131 __4540; EAST-20RF-21 (D.F.G.S) May H Moder 10-10-13 J F Taley 5-6-24 LANCE ARMSTHUNG 21 (D.G.S) G McCourt 8-10-13 __R Johnson 154 11-8 Solden Spinuss, 7-2 Easthorpe, 4-1 Lance Amstrong, 6-1 Teo Piceb, 7-1 Easy Black.

3.15 NORTH SYDMONTON HANDICAP CHASE

 $3.50\,$ John Kermode 60th Birthday National Hunt novices hurdle (E3,038: 2m 50; (T1)

5-2 Lord Of The Fiber, 7-2 Lakeledé Leader, 4-1 Top Hole, 7-1 Sweet Lord, 8-1 Manihuraugh, 12-1 Wooloomooloo, 14-1 Gerran, Many Shot, 25-1 others.

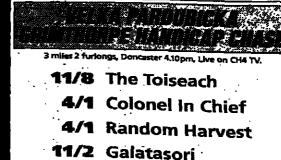
4.20 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,680: 2m.110yd) (9) hassnore Girl, 7-2 Andreephi, 4-1 Man Risk, 6-1 Fill The Bill; 8-1 Infaments, asselb, 12-1 Geograf Assembly, 20-1 clines.

4.50 Thatcham Standard open national Hunt Plat Race (\$1,424: 2m 110yd) (18) | PLAT RACE (27, A24: 27t 10yd) (18) | 13 MR MUSIC MANN 21 (EF.).5 J King 5-11-9 | R Goog 2 43 BRIGGAMER 77 (EF) Mix 1 Plants 6-11-2 | R Fattant 3 - CAUGHT MAPPIBL 8 Testan-Davies 5-17-2 | G Limothy 4 - G COMMINIST SAZEY K BRIEF (5-11-2 | W Watch (7) 5 DOOR TO DOOR C Brooks 6-11-2 | W Watch (7) 5 DOOR TO DOOR C Brooks 6-11-2 | G Brackey 6 T TO BERT N Battage 6-11-2 | B Festion 5 DOOR TO DOOR C Brooks 6-11-2 | DOUBTFUL 8 O NORMANTHESTRADMANN 9 F Statesparts 5-11-2 P Healty (5) 9 OFFSIGE J GRADM 5-11-2 | L Appel Cg 10 SOSAM WILD 42 R Above 6-11-2 | A Thorston 11 PARTY LEADER MISS H Right 5-11-2 | A Thorston 12 (A33-2 MER SHOOLO 343 (5) Mes M Jones 6-11-2 | R Mappel Cg 12 (33-2 MER SHOOLO 343 (5) Mes M Jones 6-11-2 | R Mappel Cg 14 5 THE BAT 36 A ASSAS 3-11-2 | F Tilley 15 THE BLANDER & Balding 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT STOCK S S M JONES 5-11-2 | J F Tilley 15 THE BLANDER & Balding 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S S THE STOCK S S M JONES 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S S M JONES THEIR STEP Z S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S S M JONES THEIR STEP Z S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S S M JONES THEIR STEP Z S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S M TAICHESTER Z S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S N TAICHESTER Z S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S CRIBERT S N TAICHESTER Z S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N Taichea-Doises 5-11-2 | S ABBRERT S A STATES S N TAICHESTER Z N

3 YOUNG THRUSTER 25 N Twisto-Day HOLLY HATCH J Markes 6-10-11 WOODSURY HELL A James 4-10-8 COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSERS: M Surves, 3 winners from 4 moners, 75.0%; C Shewood, 16 from 55, 29.1%; J King, 5 from 19, 26.3%; D Micholson, 23 from 96, 22.5%; B Alaar, 6 from 33, 16.2%; M Pipe, 48 from 73, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: R Johanna, 5 wieners from 19 fides, 26.3%; R Ferrant, 2 from 19, 15.6%; J Tiller, 4 from 35, 11.4%; P Hide, 9 from 80, 11.3%; M FRagmarkt, 12 from 314, 10 5%; C Llawedyn, 10 imax 89, 10.2%;

Pick up the phone PICK UP A £10 TREE BET FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking \$25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.



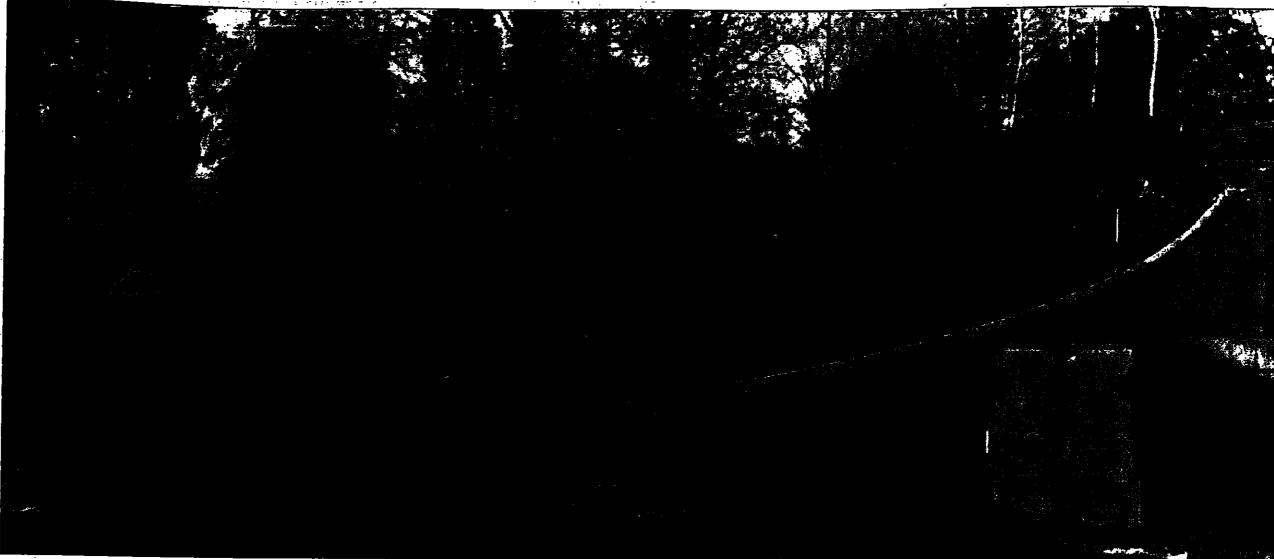
11/2 In Truth 25/1 Scotton Banks



صحرا من الاعل VIERCEN MARCH

the Sturber of Branch Branch

HOAY'S RESULTS



Breisner, who says that he is still learning, uses a lunging rein as he embarks on a confidence-building programme with one of his charges at the Waterstock House training centre. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Horse master with the magic touch

Yogi?" That was last week as Charlie Brooks . watched the careful reconditioning of his faintly flawed wonder horse, Suny Bay. "Yogi," he said, more or less tautologically, "is

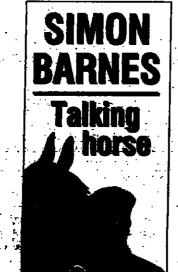
"And don't," Yogi said, "call me a guru." That was this week and I had gone to visit the guru at his ashram. Or, at least, the equestrian centre at Waterstock, in Oxfordshire, where Yogi, more or less on a daily basis, works his . . .

"And don't talk about miracles, either. Everything I do is just a matter of common sense." Which is fair enough. And the more he right then: Yogi Breisner is simply a disseminator of common sen And as Mark Twain remarked, the thing about common sense is that it ain't that common.

But we like the idea of gurus, of a person wiser than the rest of us, passing on his wisdom in a mysterious way. A guru: a man with a key in his hand, who painlessly opens the locked doors of . our understanding.

Everywhere in life, when you:

move into the area of intangibles, you find gurus; in religion and philosophy of course. And golf, of course, more mysterious and fascinating, I'm assured, than religion, philosophy and the creative pro-



cess; brings us David Leadbetter. Leadhetter is a guru and the greats of the game seek his mountain top for spiritual refurbishment and a spet of advice on uncocking the

wrists. Or, of course, cocking them. Breisner is like Leadbetter. He made the comparison himself. Both have a huge and extraordinary talent for the correction of flaws. Leadbetter does it with golfers.
Breisner does it with horse riders --- Yogi Breisner rejects talk of miracles. He puts his success at an equestrian centre in Oxfordshire down to common sense

jump jockeys, eventers, dressage. He also does it with horses. To Waterstock then, and a racehorse tall lean and wonderfully athletic. You had to stride out to keep up with him at a walk. Talented, a good temperament, three chasing wins already in a fledgeling career. And now

problems. I can't tell you his name, because I wasn't told it. Client confidentiality and all that, Walking his athletic racing yard. It's not How We Do It.

You get a lot of that, in the horsey life. That is not the way it has always been done, so it must be wrong. Much of the horsey world exists in hermetic compartments: everyone except us is (a) cruel and (b) incompetent.

But here was a racehorse walking out on a long, lunging rein — had he ever done such a thing since had he ever done such a thing since he had first been ridden? And to be horse? You can cross your fingers and hope for the best. Many horse lunged over a jump, and not a National Hunt jump but a show jump. No rider on his back. The horse had to think for himself.

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2,55 WYBOSTON NOVICES CHASE (£3,134: 2m 41 110yd) (5)

"The brain," Breisner said. "You have to work on his brain, if you want to get the body to work right." I can't remember if he was talking about riders or horses at this point. The principle is the same in either case. Communication, you see. And Breisner was communicat-

ing with the unknown and flawed animal by means of the lunge-rein, gestures of the whip, nuances of body language, voice. Mostly those staccato clucks that have become, way to an enclosed school. For many horsey people, much of the way in which hannans talk to horsey life happens in such a place. You rarely find such a thing in a with his fences, "Breisner explained as the horse spun animatedly around him. "He was becoming too racy." His mind all on the other horses and the mad excitement of it all, crashing through the fences any old how, deaf to the corrections and the curses of his jockey. That way lies defeat, probably injury, possi-

bly death. How do you deal with a problem people, professional and amateur, do exactly that. Sometimes it even works. You can try and solve the problem yourself. You can bring in

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11-8 Polar Lord, 5-2 Accompliancy Lady, 9-2 Feb Form Lad, Physical Fire, 20-1 Comberland Youth.

4.00 LESLEY ANN WALKER BIRTHDAY GELEBRATION HAMENCAP CHASE (\$3,498; 2m 110yd) (6)

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Mr D Harrey (7)
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4 R11F SERRA BAY 9 (BF.CD.S.) D Shartand 8-10-7. R Dataset (7)
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Dr P Prochard

. 6 810/ SELAFONTE 649 (D.F.S.S) Miss K George 11-10-0 . C Mass

a work jockey for a schooling session. Or you can send for Yogi. "Oh, I'm quite sure some trainers think I am a complete waste of time and money." Some people think that the horse whisperers — they hate the term even more than Breisner hates being called a guru - of the Monty Roberts school are charlatans. Others, the Queen for

method. Which is only really one common sense inside another common sense, with the Mark Twain rule

remaining in force.

And the Unnamed One was now lunged into the small jump. A pause: you could almost read the words on the thought-bubble over the horse's head: "What? All by myself?" And, mastering himself and gathering himself, he jumped. And jumped and jumped again, and then did it all in the other direction.

"Confidence is everything in jumping." Every human rider knows that as well as every horse. "You build confidence with good experiences and knowledge."

7-4 Denobe, 9-4 Sazon Duke, 9-2 Potato Mino, 6-1 Crane Hill. 14-1 others.

5.00 WILDEN HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,495: 3m 2f) (9)

And almost strutting under the influence of a good experience, almost visibly greater in knowledge, the horse was asked, by means of the shifting of a pole in front of the jump, to stand off the jump and seriously leap. And, being asked, seriously leapt.

Breisner was born in Sweden and remade in Ireland. He trained on to become a top-quality event rider. But his destiny was to become a trainer and to train the animals of two quite different species to combine their joys and their talents in the name of sport.

A few years ago, a combination of circumstances brought him



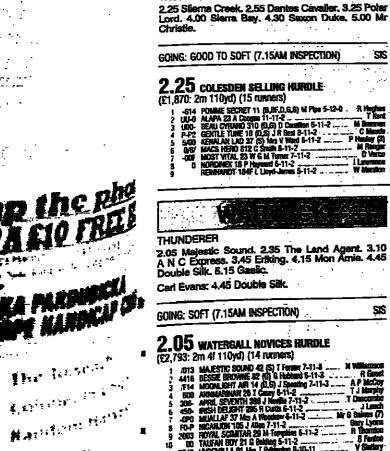
Breisner: works on the brain

more and more racehorses. His talent is to combine the methods of different branches of the horsey world, as cross-training has become the vogue in human athletes. "And learning, always learning." Some racehorse trainers are terrible old stick-in-the-muds, others are always mad for innovation. It is a matter of temperament. And after all one of the most important rules of racing is that nobody ever laughs when your horse passes the post in front of all the others.

So send for Yogi. And what Breisner does is really all frightfully simple. He can see the flaw in horse or rider with great facility. He knows the exercise that will set the flaw to rights. And he knows how to communicate this to the human, to the horse. Gurus need confidence, too.

The odd thing about reading Mike Brearley's book about leadership in cricket, The Art of Captain-cy, was that instead of exploring mysteries, it seemed to proclaim that Brearley's secret was that there is no secret. It all seems very obvious, the way

he tells it. One great Victorian scientist exclaimed on reading The Origin of Species: "How extremely stupid not to have thought of that."
There are times when it is clear that common sense is a very rare talent: and one that sometimes bears the



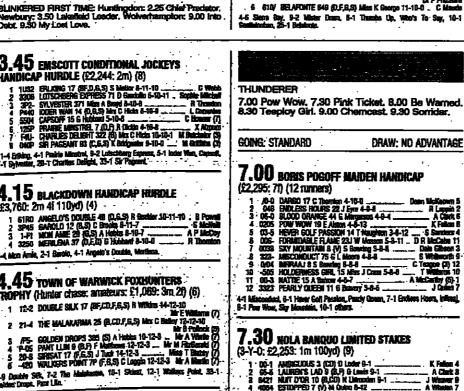
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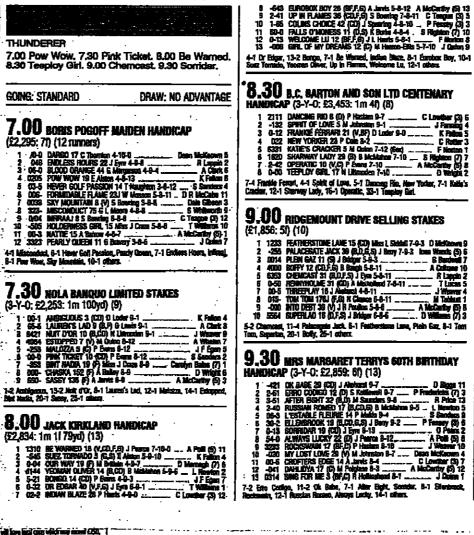
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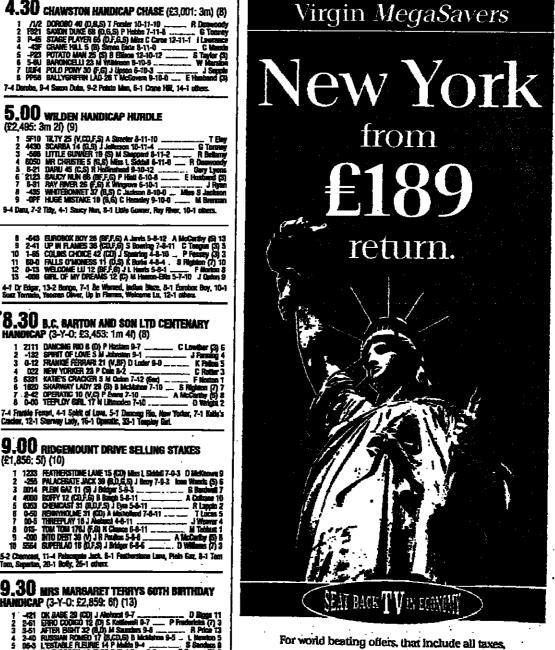
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صحدا من الاعل

It's an Escort — but not as we know it

Vaughan Freeman finds the new Focus packed with more extras than Ford's previous runabout ever had

ime was when the title family car" meant a basic box just big enough to squeeze in the whole tribe for a fractious holiday trip to Devon. Now the lucrative sector has become a battleground of stateof the art gadgets and creature comforts as Vauxhall, Volks-

in the second A

Thursday,

NIBIDE

wagen - and Ford, with its new Focus - compete to cram in as many extras as possible into the runabout.

Ford's Focus, the replacement for the Escort, was unveiled this week to justle with Vauxhall's featurepacked Astra and the similarly high-specification VW Golf for

the narrowest of marketing edges.
The Focus epitomises the rush to fill even three-door

hatchbacks with the sort of equipment seen only a few years ago on top-range Jag-uars and BMWs. Even its looks are light years ahead of the effective but dull runabouts of a few years ago, and Ford has matched its appear-ance with an interior full of gadgetry.

The most basic Focus, when it is launched in October, will have sophisticated anti-lock braking. A rarity five years ago, this goes one better with a computer-controlled electronic braking force distribution system to ensure that braking is even as well as non-skid.

It will also have one particular piece of kit that Ford, Vauxand VW have been scrambling to be the first to use: an electronic stability programme called ESP. It was a form of ESP that Mercedes-Benz used to overcome stability problems with

its new A-class small car. This is designed to match anti-lock braking with traction control to correct understeer and oversteer instantly

when swerving at speed Within hours of Ford announcing

Geneva Motor Show that ESP considering it for the Astra, and Ferdinand Piech, VW's chairman, announced that all Golf customers will have ESP.

> cars, though still a price option for the cheapest models, will be virtually taken for granted on those that sell high volumes. Only 20 years ago, such equipment was virtually un-heard of in the UK. Now it is commonplace in the sector which, with cars priced from

anti-lock brakes and electronic brake-pressure distribution. It aims to match Ford and Vauxhall's in-car entertainment with its own digital sound system for top-quality cassette or CD stereo, and also

has a navigation system inte-

grated with the audio package. The Golf even has the solution for the driver who is too lazy to turn on the windscreen wipers — a sensor built into the screen that detects when rain is falling and turns

The days of the ultra-cheap basic car that offers fripperyfree motoring are over.

The drive towards such sophistication in smaller cars is a reflection of two things: the motorists' expectations built up by lavish descriptions of

bigger cars and an increasing realisation that safety sells. As roads become more congested and large cars become less socially acceptable, carmakers are keen to ensure that the



The Focus, Ford's replacement for the Escort has more adventurous styling than its rivals, but will jostle for the narrowest of marketing edges

Astra looks more costly to counter prestige newcomers

ROADTEST: NEW ASTRA

Engine: 16valve 1.8-litre giving 115bhp Performance: 0-60mph in 9.5 seconds. Max speed Economy: 25.9mpg urban, 47.1mpg motorway, 36.2mpg combined.

THE NAME Lotus is more usually linked to Formula One race cars and high-speed sportsters, but motorists bumbling to the supermarket in their new Astra will be driving a vehicle heavily worked on

by Lotus engineers. Vauxhall has sold 1.5 million Astras in the UK since it was launched 17 years ago, Vaughan Free-Astra was Britain's fifth

biggest-selling car. It is up against strong competition from the VW Golf and Peugeot 306. Most ominous though, for Astra, is Ford's newly revealed Focus, which replaces Astra's fiercest rival, the Escort. Which is why Lotus and former FI driver John Miles were hired to tune the Astra suspension, tak-

ing into account UK roads.
The Astra has been on a radical diet 885 components have lost weight thanks to lighter materials such as aluminium. Even so, the new Astra looks more solid than its predecessor, thanks to styling that borrows heavily from costlier German marques. New competition is on the way from smaller cars by the likes of Mercedes-Benz.

So dearer car design cues are used.

The car goes on sale on March 27 in five-door hatchback and estate form, with a three-door hatch and four-door saloon arriving soon after. There will also be a seven-seat mini peoplecarrier called the Zafira.

Despite the diet-con-100bhp 1.6-litre 16-valve petble, as if the engine needs a good meal to beef it up. A hilly drive demanded constant gearchanging to maintain momentum, and the car is not as quiet as it

might be. The 1.8-litre 115hhp 16valve petrol is another matter. The slightly more powerful engine transforms the drive, making the whole car feel far more willing. The ride, Lotus be praised, is good, not over-

harsh, but comfortable Inside, the Astra is unremarkable, the front seat a bit of a squeeze for a tall passenger. The upholstery and dashboard are a mix of greys and the treatment is uninspiring, although five three-point seathelts, optional side airbags, and a 12-year anti-perforation warranty, all help.

sified as the self-indulgent area of motoring luxury. Cabin technology has also come a long way from fiddling

with a valve radio as an alternative to having the family sing Ten Green Bottles. The Focus will offer Ford's Advanced Traveller Assistance System, a unit that manages to incorporate a hands-free tele-

More and more, safety is

good seller

at this week's will feature on its Focus, Vauxhall hinted that it was

as an option.

Air-conditioning on these £11,500, can hardly be clasexact location of the car can be traced to within a dozen me-Using the mobile phone signal, the

phone with a glob-

al positioning satellite satellite pro-gramme (GPS) so

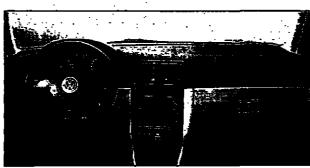
that at all times the

GPS can tell emergency services in-stantly the vehicle's location in the event of an accident or breakdown.

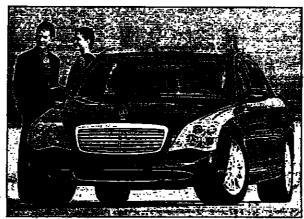
Astra's response is known as Carln, a sophisticated incar navigation system. Before setting out, the driver just keys in his or his destination and Carln, using a CD-mounted digital map, works out the quickest route. On the way, a dashboard-mounted miniscreen shows where the driver is and points out the next left or right turn. The system also speaks in a synthesized voice, well ahead of the next

.VW's Golf also comes with

mannesivre



A true chauffeur's car



Mighty Maybach: longer than Rolls-Royce's new Seraph



A stylish interior loaded with technology and luxury

Alan Copps looks at the Mercedes rival to R-R's Seraph

may no longer be trying to buy Rolls-Royce, but it is a step closer to producing the first serious rival for decades to the cars from Crewe. The launch of the Silver Seraph was one of the highlights of this week's Geneva Motor Show, but once the razzmatazz had died down, the Maybach making its European debut on the Mercedes stand attracted almost as much attention.

At 19ft long, the Maybach almost 12ft longer than the Seraph and a clear 2ft longer than the Mercedes Sclass on whose stretched platform it is based. It has a 6-litre VI2 engine and the show version emphasised its curves with an eye-catching two-tone finish.

It sports a stylish retro interior and is loaded down with an astonishing combination of technology and luxury. As the Seraph moves Rolls-Royce towards an owner-driver's car, the Maybach is built specifically for a chauffeur.

The company will make a final decision within the next three months on whether to start production, but Jürgen Hubbert, head of its car

MERCEDES-BENZ division, was brimming with enthusiasm at the prospect. He said the company had learnt a lesson from the problems with the launch of its A-class mini-car and similar modifications had already been incorporated into its Smart city car to be launched in July. Mercedes also unveiled a cabriolet version of its highly praised CLK coupe, adding further to one of the widest model ranges available. "What other company" he said, "could

> from Smart to Maybach? Another concept car appearing for the first time in Europe also played a part in the speculation about the future ownership of Rolls-Royce, which is being sold by Vickers, its parent company. Volkswagen, the only company other than the favourites, BMW, to profess publicly a continuing interest, showed a two-seater midengined roadster powered by a 5.6-litre version of its ingenious W12 engine, produced by linking two V6s.
>
> If VW does beat off its

offer such a product range,

Bavarian rival, such an engine could be powering the next generation of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars.

COMPANY CAR DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Fiendish exercises await contestants

The first of the regional find The Times/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year takes place in Not-tingham on April 17 and en-tries must be in by March 24. Five fiendish exercises

. ...

await contestants, covering verything from the Highway Code to making life-or-death decisions at the scene of an

During the Highway Code test, competitors will be asked to demonstrate their ability to drive on a variety of routes through towns, villages, along open road and dual carriageways. The examiners will be looking for driving that sticks to the law, but confestants will also gain points for making good progress where safe and appropriate.

Parking in a hurry — while keeping a ball balanced in a shallow plastic dish placed on the bonnet - is just one of the more cunning aspects of the manocuvring test. Entrants will also need to negotiate a tight course of cones - in both orward and reverse gears. Cones are also set to test the skills of drivers in the cadence

braking test, where competitors will drive at about 30mph on a wet surface. They will then have to steer and brake to avoid an obstruction on the road ahead and again while turning a sharp corner. You prout nom our principles The water residence of the state of the s

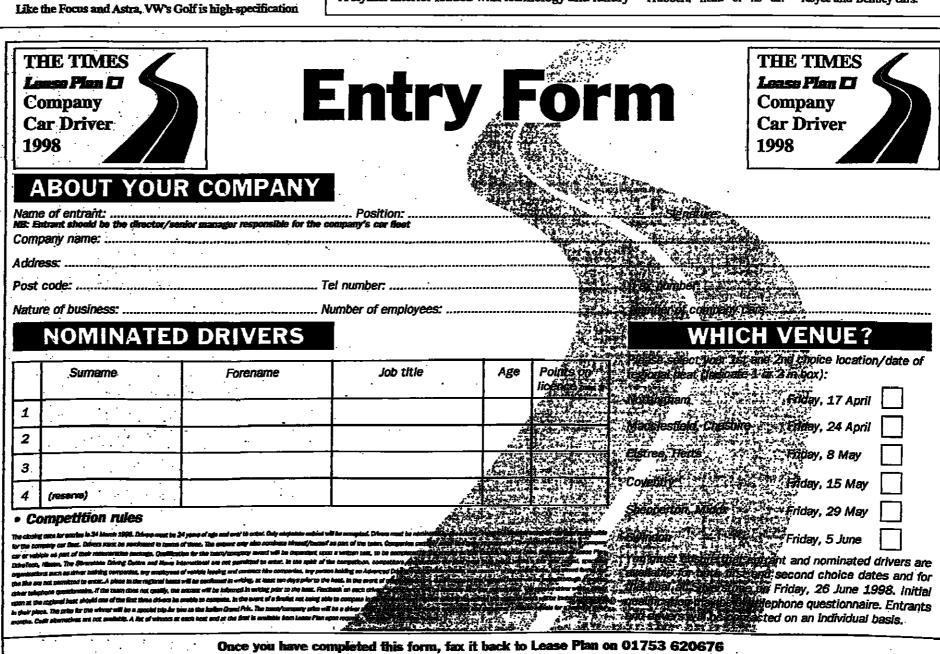
the first of the regional the emergency procedure exminutes to decide in which order they would carry out certain procedures, first during a breakdown, secondly, if they were the first at the scene of an accident.

Finally, entrants will be tested on their route and timemanagement skills. The drivers will be given maps with start and finish locations with four points of call en route simulating a tyical company car driver's journey with business appointments along the way. Competitors will need to estimate travelling times and distances and their answers will be compared with a computer's predictions.

esigned to test entrants' ability to devise a route quickly, this last test requires them to balance the speed at which they can travel on motorways and trunk roads against the savings in distance of more direct

routes on smaller roads. Nissan is providing a fleet of Primeras for our tests and those who succeed in reaching the final at Silverstone in June will have a chance to try some of the company's other products. One of the tasks in the final is to assess how quickly a driver can adapt when chang-

ing to a new car. **EVE-ANN PRENTICE**



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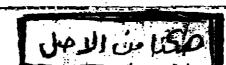
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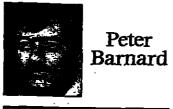
Budget spin-doctors are targeting cars by claiming that driving costs have risen far less than public transport. But that doesn't mean that driving is too cheap

Why not tax dumb ideas instead?

hen Henry Kissinger was given the Nobel Lehrer said that he was giving up American writer Tom satire on grounds of unfair compesaure on grounds of unfair compe-tition. Similar thoughts have been flowing through my mind this week as the various nudges and winks that proceed all Budgets have scattered themselves across my desk. There are times when real events leave even the most garrulous of columnists nearly

) REGISTRATION

I did say nearly. The pick of the Budget leaks was a story obtained by Radio 4's *Today* programme. Government figures show that since 1974, the cost of motoring has risen by an amount that is 6.5 per cent below the rate of inflation, while travelling on trains or buses has risen by much more than inflation: 75 per cent more in the



case of trains and 60 per cent in the

case of buses.

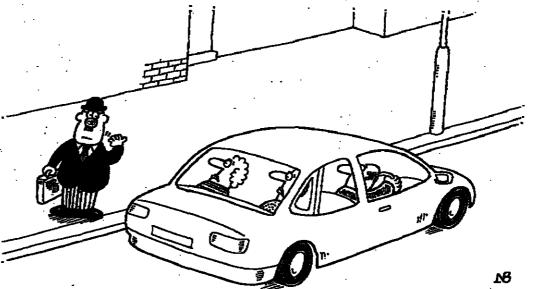
This is clearly going to be the excuse to give the motorist another Budget hammering: more on fuel, more on road tax, further reductions on company car tax benefits. I dare say Gordon Brown will put a tax on those nodding teddy bears

that some people hang in their rear windows (not that I would object to

that, come to think of it). Nor would I mind if the Chancellor imposed on motorway service areas a spilled-tea surcharge, say £1 for every occasion when the teapot spills its contents all over

How about a cones tax? Now here is something that could raise a lot of money. The idea is that drivers would pay extra to drive on roads that for a specified distance of, say, five miles, did not have any lanes coned off.

Obviously this would not bring in much income at present - how many times lately have you driven five miles without seeing a cone? but the charge would encourage contractors to stop putting down a mile of cones on Friday afternoon ready for them to start work on Monday morning, while drivers



spend the weekend crawling past a lane that is empty save for the cones along its perimeter and, mysteriously, one man in a donkey jacket carrying some sort of stick: bas he lost his dog?

Another useful tax would involve not drivers but garages. They would have to pay a levy amounting to the difference be-

would cost and what it actually cost. The present system is unsatisfactory. You ring up the garage and say: "I have got a Ford Flesta that needs a 12,000-mile service, how much will that cost?" And the garage replies, say, "£63.50" (note how specific they are). So why are you standing at the garage's counter writing a cheque for

you meant before VAT." or: "We thought you meant how much the labour charge would be," or: "The estimate didn't include the cost of the oil," or all three?

Of course, none of these imagi-native and radical taxation ideas will spill from the glum features of Mr Brown on Tuesday week. He will instead explain, though not in

a poisonous mob who slaughter innocent children and send up great clouds of noxious fumes that blot out the sun. He will say that we make too many unnecessary journeys, though he is unlikely to cite the example of the journeys made by ministers between their Whitehall offices and the House of Commons.

Mr Brown will certainly not dwell on the single fact that makes a complete nonsense of the leaked figures about the cost of owning a car compared with the cost of travelling by train or bus. This fact is that even if we all made some journeys by train or bus, we would still need to own a car.

One cost would not replace the other, so the comparison is a stunt. a piece of public relations. Comparing these methods of transport - as if we could use a train to go to Sainsbury's or get on a bus in Devon that would take us to see our great aunt in Harrogate - is

The fact that rail and bus fares have risen by amounts far above inflation is a scandal and an indictment of transport policy, or its absence. It means that bus and rail travel is too expensive; only someone in search of easy targets could conclude that it means that motoring is too cheap.



Sport's lowered handlebars still give a relaxed posture

Classic performer

Two things that sell mo-torbikes are perfor-mance and nostalgia, as the success of Honda's FireBlade and countless Harley-Davidsons proves. It's also true of Triumph, whose bestselling models since the marque was revived in 1991 have been the retro-styled Thunderbird and last year's supersports T595 Daytona.

So it was logical for Triumph to aim for the best of both worlds with the Thunderbird Sport, the Leicestershire firm's only new model for 1998. The Sport combines the existing Thunderbird's oldfashioned style with an extra helping of three-cylinder per-formance. It is intended to attract riders who remember the glory days of Triumph, but are not too old to give the throttle cable a healthy tweak.

Roland Brown

on Triumph's sportier retro

The Sport will certainly generate a pang of nostalgia in anyone who rode the old Triumph firm's 650cc twincylinder Thunderbird from 1950. The Sport's two-tone

paintwork, perforated chrome

airbox covers, and especially

its striking twin reverse-cone

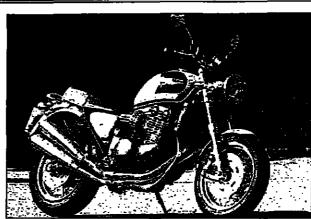
silencers on the right side all lend a period look. This bike has lower handle-bars than the existing Thunderbird, but the Sport has a relaxed, almost upright riding position. The bike feels more like a typical unfaired roadster than an aggressive sports machine. It's comfortable in

VOLKSWAGEN

town and happy being trickled along at slow speed. The Sport's 885cc engine has

a welcome 13bhp more than the laid-back Thunderbird. Happily, the cruiser's effortless midrange response hasn't been lost. Winding open the throttle sends the Sport whistling smoothly forward, with no hint of a power band and little need to keep flicking through a six-speed gearbox that was occasionally slightly notchy on down-changes.

There's enough power to reach about 130mph and, more usefully, the Sport's slightly forward-leaning riding position means comfortable cruising at the legal limit. All but the shortest passengers will feel cramped by the high pillion pegs, though. No grabrail is fitted, although one is available as an extra.



Reverse-cone exhaust echoes Fifties and Sixties Triumphs

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The biggest advantage over the standard Thunderbird is in the chassis, which is considerably uprated. Suspension is fully adjustable front and rear, wire-spoked wheels carry broad Avon radial tyres, and the twin-disc front brakes have plenty of bite.

Those changes are enough to make the Sport very entertaining on a twisty road. By sportsbike standards, the triple is heavy at 224kg, its suspension is quite soft and its footrests touch down too soon to encourage really aggressive cornering. But the Triumph blends light steering with stability and sticky tyres.

Riders looking for a true sportsbike should not be THUNDERBIRD

Engine: in-line 12-valve, 885cc triple, producing 82bhp at 8.500rpm.

Transmission Six-speed gearbox. Chain final-drive. Performance: Max speed: !30mph, 0-60mph

in 3.5 seconds.

Price: £7,649 (plus £350 on-the-road charge). Insurance group: 12 (with Norwich Union).

fooled by the new Triumph's name. Despite its tweaked engine and uprated chassis, the triple is definitely more Thunderbird than Sport, and didn't get the adrenalin flowing quite as much as I'd expected. But as a retro-bike that can be ridden rapidly and in comfort, the Triumph is hard to beat.

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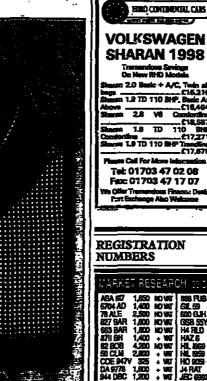
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PEDIGREE CHUMS 62

Nicola Horlick's team has potential, say fund analysts



Anne Ashworth and Karen Woolfson look ahead to what the Chancellor may do in his second Budget

Brown may close wills loophole

revious Chancellors have shrunk from the task. But it is rumoured that in his second Budget, now just ten days away, Gordon Brown may be prepared to risk the unpopu-larity that would surely accompany the measure.
The controversial move in

question is the abolition of deeds of variation, the procedure recent-

change the £21 million will of Diana, Princess Wales. The Princess's

tered the terms of the will, that leaves almost £13 million after tax to her sons Prince William and Prince Harry, to allow her 17 godchildren to receive

But deeds of variation are also commonly exploited to lessen the amount of inheritance tax payable on large estates. This brought them to the notice of the Treasury in the late Eighties. Over the years many millions in tax have been saved in this way. However, attempts made

under the Conservative government to outlaw the practice failed in the face of a public outcry. Bob Rothenberg of Blick Rothenberg, the accountant, believes that Mr Brown, who has vowed to raise more money from inheritance tax, may be less likely to bow to

Mr Rothenberg said that deeds of variation are often employed when one well-off spouse has left everything to the other, Although this means that no inheritance tax is payable, it overlooks the nil rate band of £215,000.

This is the portion of any estate that is free of tax, whoever benefits. Mr alter the will, so that £215,000 goes to the children, thus taking advantage of the nil-rate band, with the widow

fixed rate ran out

getting the rest.
The aim of this is to cut the inheritance tax payable at her death, when, if the deed of variation were not introduced. everything save £215,000 would be subject to tax." He added that it would be very

difficult to avoidance from the need to ensure proper provision for tled to a share of an estate but

the will. But he added: "Clever drafting would ensure that family members received bequests to which they were entitled without gaining a tax advantage." The disappearance of deeds

of variation would also probably mean the end of the use of discretionary trusts, as an inheritance-tax saving device. Since even a very wealthy

man cannot predict the exact date of his demise, or the tax regime that will be in force at that time, he instructs his advisers to draw up a will where everything is left to a discretionary trust. Within two years of his death the trustees must divide up the assets. But they are able to do so in the most efficient way, based on current tax rules.

The disappearance of these two concessions would be in tune with Mr Brown's overall strategy in his second Budget - to crack down on the exploitation of loopholes. If they were accompanied by the abolition of potentially exempt transfers (where the rich pass substantial assets tax-free during their lifetimes) to their families, Mr Brown could claim that he had greatly



Prince Harry and Prince William will be the main beneficiaries of the £21 million will of Diana, Princess of Wales

inheritance tax. Below we outline the other measures that now seem likely to be included in the Budget.

CAPITAL GAINS

Changes are expected to capital gains tax, another area which the Chancellor sees as rife with loopholes and yielding insufficient revenues. CGT is payable at the individual's highest rate of income tax and is primarily generated from investments; a smaller part comes from property such as second homes plus antiques and works of art.

John Whiting, a tax partner at Price Waterhouse, believes

increased the revenues from income-producing investments should not be subjected to CGT, because the money invested has probably come from after-tax income. This argument is thought to have strongly influenced the Chancellor. The Government wants to encourage long-term investment in a variety of ways which is part of its plan for British people to start taking responsibility for their own welfare rather than rely on the

> think the Chancellor may introduce a tiered system whereby short-term gains on assets held for less than five years, for example, are subject to the higher 40 per cent rate of

tax. However, assets held for more than five years would be taxed at a lower rate and could even have a range of tax breaks increasing in line with how long the investment is held. Many people have post-poned a review of their capital gains tax affairs until after the Budget, in the hope that longterm gains will be more favourably treated.

SAVINGS

That is why tax experts Mr Brown's philosophy of providing more for people on lower incomes and taking away from the rich is likely to be evident in all the measures he announces. Isas are the perfect example. The idea is to

make the Isa a tax-free investment suitable for the masses, particularly aimed at attracting the less well-to-do with an easily accessible product.

The orginal intention was to allow investors to put up to £5,000 tax-free a year into an Isa up to a maximum of £50,000, giving them the freedom to withdraw their money at any time without losing the tax-saving benefits.

However, fierce controversy over the lifetime limit of £50,000 proposed by the Government could lead to a partial retreat. The issue has also been the subject of strife between 10 and 11 Downing Street, with the Prime Minister's camp believing that the

£50,000 limit goes against the thrifty habits of Middle Brit-

it is now thought that the Chancellor could, for example, raise the limit or increase the cash element allowed to be invested in an Isa. Alternatively, he may tackle the issue of Tessas and Peps with greater sensitivity by deciding not to punish unfairly investors who have been attracted into these schemes over the years.

According to the most recent rumour, he may be preparing to allow savers to keep an unlimited amount in Peps and Tessas, thus keeping their capital gains and income tax breaks. They would also be permitted to save another £50.000 in an Isa.

MIRAS

Mr Whiting believes that the 15 per cent tax relief on the first £30,000 of a mortgage (Miras) will be further reduced in this Budget or the next and then phased out altogether in the ifetime of this Parliament.

He anticipates that the scheduled reduction to 10 per cent will be followed by further cuts, so if you have a mortgage of £30,000 or more you are receiving 15 per cent tax relief on £3,000, which amounts to £450. When the relief falls to 10 per cent, you will receive only £300.

Miras presently costs the Government about £2.4 billion and reducing it to 10 per cent will bring this figure down to £1.65 billion, which is

a significant saving.

Mr Whiting believes the emotive feelings about phasing out Miras may be accepted more easily by homeowners if the Government commits itself to keeping interest rates down. He said: "I think interest rates are at a peak now. One of the Chancellor's challenges is to prove that he's being prudent so that interest rates can come down."

The lower rate band of income tax may be set at 10 per cent for perhaps the first £1,000-£2,000 earned. Higher taxpayers would be likely to forfeit any gain from this move by a lowering in the higher-rate tax

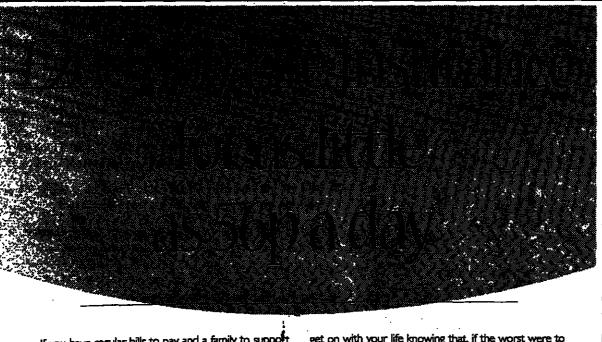
Other higher rate taxpayers could be subjected to a tax on child benefit and the Government may look at changing the personal allowance on the first £4,045 earned which is currently available to everyone into a tax credit arrangement. Currently the personal allowance is worth just under £1,000 to the basic rate taxpayer but £1,600 to the higher rate taxpayer and the Chancellor could simply alter this to a flat tax credit of £1,000 for everyone.

PENSIONS

As pensions are under review the Chancellor is likely to limit himself to one or two simple measures. Before every Budget it is rumoured that higher rate relief on pension contributions and the tax-free lump sum may be at risk. This Budget is no exception. If the concessions disappeared, it seems more likely that they would be phased out over a period, then abolished at a

INHERITANCE

There are other measures afoot, though the Government may decide to postpone them given the far-reaching moves already planned for this month's Budget. At risk in this or a later Budget is the sevenyear rule which allows any individual to give any amount away as long as they survive for seven years. Meanwhile, the inheritance tax which only applies on death above £215,000 is unlikely to change much this month.



If you have regular bills to pay and a family to support it's understandable if you've put the issue of life insurance to the back of your mind. After all, cover can be costly, and you need money to hand.

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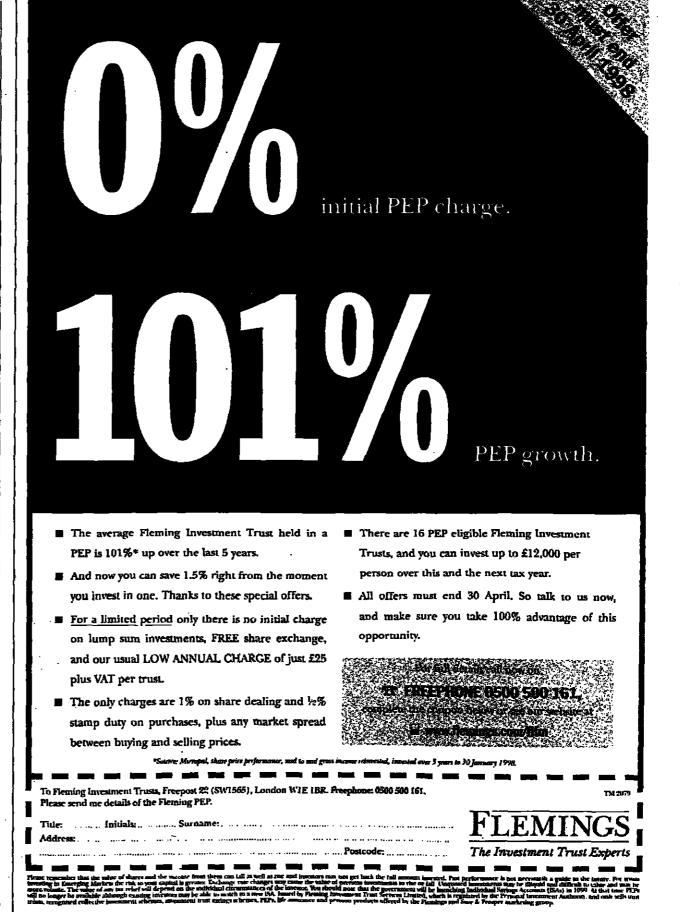
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Patrick Collinson looks at the traps lying in wait in the small print

Stuck in a real fix

fixed-rate loan, he was shocked to learn that he would have to pay the Bradford & Bingley Building Society £5,500 to fix again.

Mr Berney was trapped in the web of redemption penalties that lenders use to lock customers into their mortgages. Even though a fixed-rate period may have ended, lenders can continue to charge a redemption penalty for years afterwards if the borrower wants to move mortgages or change terms.

Many borrowers are under

the illusion that so long as they stay with their lender, they can switch without additional cost to a new fixed rate once their fixed period has expired. However, the small print of

fixed-rate mortgage contracts specifies redemption penalty periods that often run to nearly five years. So, a borrower who took out a two-year fix can find that even two years after the fixed period has expired, or more than four years into the life of the loan, he faces a penalty charge. The penalty varies markedly between lenders. with a worst-case scenario of nine months' interest, but is more usually three months' interest or 3 to 5 per cent of the outstanding mortgage balance. Lenders rarely forbid a borrower from switching to a new fixed loan, but the potentially huge cost of an early redemp-

out the gain of switching to a

Nigel Berney had a shock after his loan's fixed-rate period

fordshire, two years ago, switching his £130,000 loan to Bradford & Bingley. Last month, the fixed period ended and he asked his B&B adviser about moving to a new fixed rate rather than falling back to the society's current 8.45 per cent variable rate.

Mr Berney said: "At first, they were very helpful and said there would be no problem. But then he said, 'Hang on, there's tion penalty can easily wipe a penalty of six months' interest, or about £3,500"." To make matters worse, it then became apparent that because Mr

Berney's fixed rate had expired, the cost of redeeming had actually risen, to £5,500. Mr Berney said: "I couldn't understand it. It seems that the longer you stay with the mortgage, the more you had to pay. I would very much like to move to a new fixed rate, but, at that cost, it was out of the question. The people dealing with me at Bradford & Bingley were very helpful, but I feel

on the society's standard vari-Should Mr Berney have

sponed the scale of penalties in the terms of the mortgage before he agreed to remort-gage with the B&B? He said: I'm sure it was in the small print somewhere, but I cannot recall being made aware of it." Rex Kirk, of the B&B, said: "When we price a product we have to take into account the time a borrower will stay with us. If our mortgages did not have these early redemption penalties, we would have to push the rate up. We are very

and we do not hide them. "When someone comes off a fixed rate, they also get a 0.25 per cent credit off our 8.45 per cent standard variable rate." However, a split has ansen

clear about putting informa-

tion about penalties upfront

in the mortgage market on charging redemption penalties after a fix ends. Lenders such as Abbey National, Lloyds, C&G and Woolwich charge the penalties on shortterm fixes for up to five years. However, Halifax, the Nationwide and Barclays offer homebuyers two options on fixedrate loans. For example, under option one, Barclays is offering a two-year 7.79 per cent fix until May 31 2000, with no lock-in after that. At that date, a customer can switch to another fixed rate or even another lender without extra cost. Under option two, the bank offers a two-year rate of 6.89 per cent, but tells custumers that the lock-in lasts four very disillusioned, particularyears, during which early reabout the second tier of charges they levy if your fixed rate has expired." He is now

Pressure mounts for tougher

Pressure is mounting for tougher rules to govern the selling of home loans, in spite of the extension earlier this year of the mortgage code to intermediaries who arrange finance for home buyers. About half of the loans now sold are arranged by middlemen, such as mortgage brokers or financial advisers. But there are concerns that they may not always fully reveal the penalties payable when fixed and discounted rate loans are

The Office of Fair Trading and the

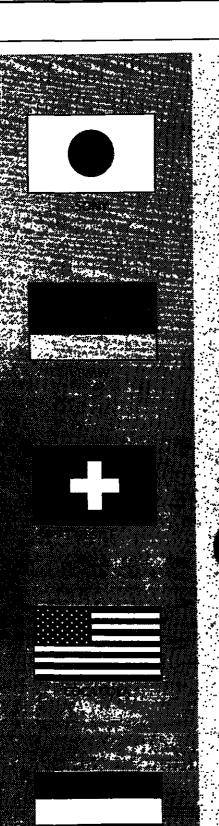
mortgage code does not afford sufficient protection to borrowers and that the complexity of mortgages means they should be covered by the regulatory regime that covers savings and invest-

These bodies argue that borrowers are not always told of the hazards of redeeming their fixed-interest loans early, nor are they told of the fees that intermediaries can earn from placing the mortage with a particular lender. "Procuragage with a particular lender. Procura-tion fees" have become more and more commonplace, and vary from £250 to 1 per cent of the mortgage. On a big loan these fees could run into hundreds, perhaps even thousands of pounds.

as on hon

When selling life insurance, pensions and investments, middlemen must inform the client whether they are authorised to offer the products of more than one company and disclose their commission. They must also make clients aware of the financial penalties associated with cashing in the products early. The mortgage code requires a much lower level of sclosure from intermediaries.

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to



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while Gavin Lumsden has a warning about checking interest rates

I f you are thinking of borrowing money, you will probably check the interest rates on offer from lenders. However, although comparing lenders' APRs (annual percentage rates) is sensible, it does not tell the whole story. It can be just as important to find out how much it will cost if you pay

off the loan early. You could be shocked by the answer as nearly all finance houses and high street personal lenders still use a method of calculating early redemption penalties that the Office of Fair Trading has banned from use

Lenders that use the "rule 78" method can force borrowers who want to redeem their loan early to pay nearly all the interest they would have paid had they paid the loan to the end of its term. Rule 78 has become notorious in the mortgage market where it can produce staggeringly high redemp-tion figures well in excess of the original amount borrowed. Lenders were able to exploit the rule to lock borrowers into expensive loans until last year when the OFT banned its use.

Unfortunately, the OFT's move applies only to loans over £15,000 which are unregulated and not covered by the Con-sumer Credit Act. As rule 78 is part of the CCA regulations, most lenders can legitimately use it, even though it is designed to set the maximum level they can levy. This can have devastating consequences for borrowers. One couple contacted The Times in desperation. They borrowed more than £9,000 seven years ago, have paid £20,000 to their lender and still owe £20,500, all because rule 78 is being app-

The OFT is unhappy that borrowers of so-called regulat-

Beware rule 78



Rules are rules and even the dreaded rule 78 must be obeyed

Rebate in the Early Settlement

Act 1983 lenders may defer

calculating the redemption fig-

ure for one or two months depending on whether the term

of the loan is more or less than

five years. For example, if in

the 15th month of a four-year

loan you tell your lender that

you want to pay the loan off, the company could wait until

month 17 before giving you a

settlement figure. You could have to pay interest for two more months before the lender

tells you how much more you

simply making two more pay-ments on the loan and then

This is not the same as

redemption penalties than if they had taken an unregulated loan. The watchdog is in urgent talks with the Department of Trade and Industry and lenders about changing the law. It is particularly concerned because in May the threshold for regulated loans rises to £25,000, bringing far more borrowers under rule 78.

Until the law is changed borrowers need to be on their guard as most lenders do not advertise their use of rule 78. Many lenders give the mis-

leading impression that they simply charge one or two months' interest for early redemptions. This is not true. Under the Consumer Credit paying off the capital you owe.

you to think so.

This commonsense "balance and interest" approach always produces lower settlement figures than rule 78 plus one to two months. Take, say, a borrower with a £12,000 ten-year loan at 12 per cent APR. If after three years he wanted to re-deem the loan, he would have to pay £9,784 using the balance and interest system. However, deferring rule 78 for one month produces a figure of £10,192 — £408 more.

The disparity gets worse the longer the loan and the higher the interest A borrower redeeming a £15,000, 25-year loan charging 12 per cent APR after ten years would pay £13,149 under balance and interest but £16,385 under rule 78 - a difference of £3,236.

Lenders rightly claim that most of their personal loans are shorter and smaller. Even here, though, the borrower always loses out. A £4,000 five-year loan charging 18 per cent APR would cost £2,928 to redeem under rule 78, £69 more than it

So what should borrowers do? If you want to settle your loan early, be aware of lenders using rule 78, particularly if you are planning to borrow a large amount of money for five

years or more.
Lenders in this camp include
AA Financial Services, Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, Direct, Midland, Royal Bank of Scotland and TSB.

The Co-operative Bank, Yorkshire Bank, Barclays and Lloyds are among the few lenders that do not impose

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rules on home loan sales

the Treasury has warned lenders that if the mortgage code does not work properly, then she will bring loans under the same regime as insurance, investments and pensions. Lenders are anxious to avoid statutory regulation as it will substantially increase their compliance

The intermediary code, which is voluntary, is identical to the code that is already in place for the lenders. But as nearly half of all mortgage business is introduced by financial advisers to lenders, the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the

Societies Ombudsman received more than 5,000 complaints about morigages

 a third of all those received.

Mortgage brokers that sign up to the code will have to pay a fee to be on a central register of intermediaries. After the end of April, consumers will be able to telephone the register to discover whether the mortgage broker they are dealing with has signed up to the code.

be code stipulates that mortgage Government felt it was appropriate that brokers must state whether they intermediaries should also sign up.

Those in the multi-billion pound abether they can offer the products from mortgage market, banks, building societ- many different lenders. They must disies and life insurance companies, are close the fees they are earning from the

protect consumers against mis-selling of detail the penalties that occur if the loan home loans. Last year, the Building is a fixed or capped rate and it is

redeemed early.

They must also give an idea of the level of repayments that could occur, when the fixed rate ends and the borrower moves од to a variable rate.

The Mortgage Code Register of Intermediaries (MCRI), which is setting up the broker register, refused to reveal how many had signed up to the code. The MCRI is also yet to come up with a scheme to ensure that mortgage brokers

Colin Harris, the chairman, said: "The council is going to introduce compliance procedures to make sure brokers comply."

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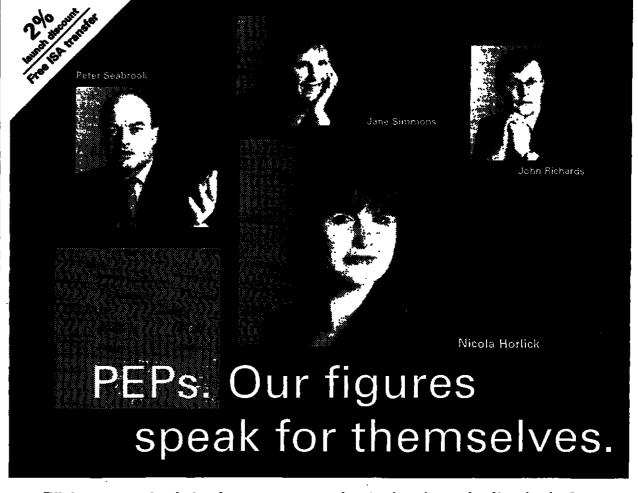
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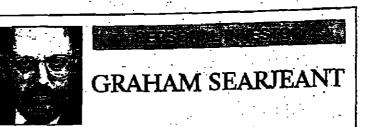
Eternal truths just do not last

ictators are not the only ones who rewrite history. From family affairs to corporate conflict and the sweep of economies and markets, past events are constantly being censored, edited and reslanted to suit prevailing opinion or interests. Even memory is vulnerable to this process. Busy folk are prisoners of the accepted view unless they have records with which to challenge the PR paint-roller that spreads it.

Nowhere is this truer than in the financial markets. Even today, it is often assumed that the Wall Street crash of 1929 or even the mini-crash of 1987 came out of the blue. They didn't. A glance at what was said at the time shows that stock markets shrugged off worsening economic trends. Adjustment was then harsh once pretence could no longer be sustained.

The most convenient truth in investment is that shares will always be a good bet in the medium term, so do not worry about short-term fluctuations. This has proved sound advice

and still is. But it is not strictly true. Look at those inconvenient records. Suppose that you had been able to buy an index-tracking UK unit trust in 1972. You would have stood no chance of getting your money back before the autumn of 1977, even



ignoring the charges. Most of the time, you would have nursed horrendous losses. After a full ten years, you might have made a capital profit of 30 per cent. Over that decade the retail prices index more than trebled. So

much for shares being a great hedge against inflation. Good yes, great no. Inflation is not the problem in Japan, where the Nikkei 225 share index stands about 55 per cent lower than at the end of the previous decade. That was a speculative peak. The Nikkei plunged by nearly 60 per cent in a couple of years and has wandered aimlessly ever since. Experts differ about whether Tokyo

has been a bear market all eight years. For investors, it scarcely matters. You did not have to buy at the top to come a cropper. If you bought the index at any time in 1987, more than a

decade ago, you would still show a heavy loss, even bigger for the millions who bought in 1988 or 1989. Few claim to have foreseen this disaster. A glance at some contemporary records, in this case the thoughts of Japan analysts at Kleinwort Ben-son, is still instructive. As early as

March 1989, the economist Richard Jerram wrote: "Evidence is pointing to a peak in the economic cycle." In June 1989, the firm's analysts called the end of the liquidity driven market, telling buyers to be choosy. By August, KB headlined: "Low

real interest rates and tight economy makes continued underperformance likely." Up to 15 per cent should be held in cash "although we believe the short-term momentum is upwards". It was. If investors had followed advice to sell out in March or June

they would have saved a fortune in the long run, but missed out on a final

20 per cent rise in share prices. This euphoric bubble affected even the analysis. In December, they noted wortying signs" such as a surge from investment trusts into money funds. They reckoned profits would slow and that the market was discounting good news, but were less cautious than before. After Nemesis struck, the analysis tended to revert to eternal truths. Things should be OK in the medium term (they aren't) and Japanese shares and bonds move in the same direction (they haven't).

The analysis emerge with credit, but never said sell, sell, sell. You cannot stray too far from the consensus if you want to keep your credibil-ity. Raging bulls or ferocious bears may prove right eventually, but if their timing is way out, as it usually is, few will be listening by the time they should. Trends overrun and the prevailing consensus is often strongest when about to be smashed.

If the logic of the facts conflicts with market sentiment, or with prevailing political wisdom, back logic, even if you look stupid in the short run. Fortunately, today's raging boom has plenty of sceptics. They are the best protection against disaster.

Revenue fines furore hots up

tants and the Inland Revenue over self-as-sessment first highlighted by The Times, intensified this week as it emerged that significant numbers of penalty notices are being sent to taxpayers who had filed their

which the Revenue processes Last week the Revenue postAccountants demand inquiry, says Susan Emmett

ed 670,000 penalty notices for the £100 fines for those who failed to return forms by the final self-assessment deadline of January 31. But accountants are angry that the Reve-nue is demanding fines from returns on time. The blunders have brought calls for an investigation of the way in clients who met the deadline. Some have also claimed that clients who did not return

their forms by the due date are

not receiving penalty notices. Both large and small firms have come under fire from disgruntled clients who have received fines, and accountants fear that their clients' confidence is being under-mined by Revenue mistakes.

many taxpayers received pen-alty notices in error, although some accountants estimate that about 20 per cent of their clients were sent a fine notice despite filing on time. However, one small accountant in Sideup said that about 75 per cent of his clients were sent penalty notices in error.

It is still too early to say how

Peter Back, director of SimpliTax, a subsidiary of the accountants Horworth Clark Whitehill, which specialises in tax returns, said that 20 per

cent of his clients received penalty notices in error, while up to 15 per cent of clients who did not file have yet to be fined. Mr Back said: "It's clear that a number of those penalty notices should not have gone out. After each major stage of the self-assessment process there have been failings. All indicates that there is some-

with the system.
"I think that some real questions have got to be asked. There is a case for some sort of inquiry. The Revenue expects taxpayers to meet their obligations in full but the Revenue is not meet-

thing fundamentally wrong

ing its obligations."
The problem mostly affects accountants who either posted or filed their clients' forms by

hand. Those who filed elec-tronically have emerged un-

Paul Harmsworth, managing director of Tax Link the self-assessment tax calculation specialists based in Exeter, said that none of his clients whose returns were filed electronically received penalty notices, but fines were sent to 25 per cent of clients whose returns were filed on paper because of previous software problems with the Revenue's computer.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue said: "I am aware of it happening, but I don't get the impression that it is a major phenomenon. Our apologies go to those who did receive a penalty notice but handed in the form on time. There was a big rush towards January 31 and there were instances of human error, but not on a mass scale."



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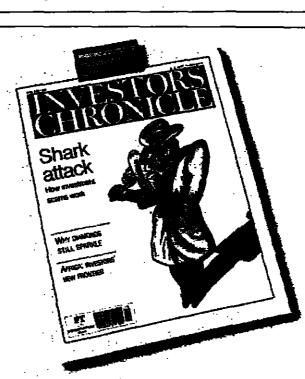
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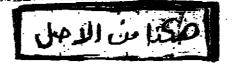
de includes a detailed survey of Peps. An essential guide, it will help you understand the ins and outs of Peps - which are more involved than they appear

We look at the complete range of Peps available. Do popular brand Peps five up to their reputations? Find out with our expose of the big names' approach to investment and comprehensive performance tables.

You'll discover why Paps should be part of a balanced portfolio. Is their biss to UK Investment good for returns? And what are the issues surrounding the individual Savings Scheme? For the mature investor we compare Peps to pensions and look at Peps specifically for the olderly.

investors Chronicle, complete with a 50-page Paps Survey, is on sale or 6th March from your newsagent. Price £2.50.

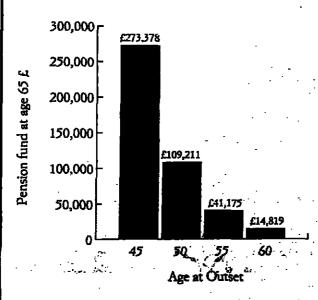




TAKE FIVE MINUTES AND YOU COULD DOUBLE YOUR PENSION

A typical Equitable pension fund has doubled in value every five years, so the sooner you start saving the better off you will be when you retire. Put it another way. If you delay for five years, your retirement income could be halved. So five minutes spent reading on could well be worth your while.

In the chart below, we show the huge difference in the value of a £200 per month personal pension plan on your 65th birthday, depending on the age at which you start contributing.



This shows the actual open market option funds for a £200 per month Equitable Life with-profits personal pension plan as at 1 July 1997, pension benefits taken at exact age 65. Source: Money Management, October 1997.

Of course, the final value of the investment is not guaranteed.

Time, however, is not the only factor which determines how much you receive. The choice of pension company also makes a big difference in two important respects: First, how much of your money disappears in charges before it can be invested. Second, how well the balance is invested.

At The Equitable Life, we know our with-profits charges are the very lowest and our investment performance is amongst the very best.

We'd like everyone else to know it too.

NO MIDDLEMEN, NO SHAREHOLDERS. LOW COSTS

We have never paid commission to third parties. As a mutual life company, the oldest in the world in fact, we don't have any shareholders to take a slice of the profits. And we keep all our internal expenses to an absolute minimum.

Three good reasons why we are renowned for our low costs.

It's also why an annual Planned Savings' survey in October 1997 once again shows The Equitable Life as having the lowest ratio of expenses to premium income of all companies surveyed across the UK.

What is important is that we pass these savings on to our clients in the form of unusually low charges, so more of your money can be invested for the future.

IN A CLASS OF OUR OWN

A simple rating system, suggested in an Office of Fair Trading discussion document, allows people to make a straight comparison between pension products by giving each one a series of ratings, on a scale of A+ to C-, both for past performance and charges. A recent survey using this rating method showed The Equitable to be well ahead of the field.

•••	PERSONAL PENSIONS RAT	IINGS
Company	Pase Performance Age tien birthday - 50	Own-charge projections Age next bribday - 30
The Equitable Life	A+AB	A+A+A+
AXA Equity & Law	CCA	BBC
Britannia Life	***	CBB
CIS	BA*	CBA+
Clerical Medical	BAB	BAA
Commercial Union	*CC	ABA
Eagle Star	BAA	CBA
Ecclesiastical	***	***
Friends Provident	BBB	BC-A
General Accident	A*A	BAB
Legal & General	CBB	AAB
London Life	**C-	***
MGM Assurance	A+A+C	BBC-
National Mutual	BBB	BBB
Norwich Union	BBA	BAA
NPI	BBC	BAB
Prudential	***	A+AC
RNPFN	ABA+	CC-A+
Royal London	BAA	BBC
Royal Sun Alliance	CC-C-	ABC
Scottish Amicable	BCB	BBC ·
Scottish Equitable	BCB	CBA
Scottish Friendly	BBB	C-CC-
Scottish Life	BBB	CBB
Scottish Mutual	BBA	ABC
Scottish Provident	*AC	***
Scottish Widows	ВСВ	ABB
Standard Life	BBC	ABC
Sun Life	CBB	BBB .
Swiss Life	CC*	***
Wesleyan Assurance	*AA	BBC

* Denotes where no rating has been given due to company not having provided a figure.

Past performance – the three ratings refer to transfer value after 5 years, transfer value after 10 years and retirement fund (incl terminal bonus) respectively. All figures are calculated as at 1.4.97, assuming policies taken out six months before next birthday. Monthly premium £30. Retirement age 65.

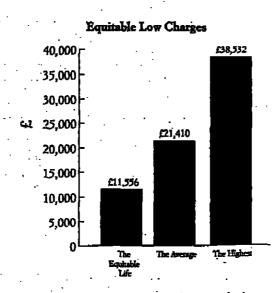
Own charge projections – the three ratings refer to transfer value at end of year 5, transfer value at end of year 20 and retirement fund respectively. Projections are based on plans commencing 1.4.97 and are in accordance with the PIA's projection rules, using the mid-point assumptions. Investment growth rare before charges 9% pa. RPI and AEI inflation rates are 4.5 and 6% pa respectively. Retirement age 65. Monthly premium £100.

Source: Money Marketing FPR With-Profits Survey, May 1997.

OUR LOW CHARGES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The chart below shows the effect that different companies' charges will have on a £200 a month with-profits pension plan over 20 years.

HOW MUCH A PENSION IS REDUCED BY CHARGES OVER 20 YEARS



These figures relate to projected open market option funds as at 1 July 1997 for new style with-profits personal pension plans for a man aged 45 due to retire at age 65. Monthly contributions £200. Assumed annual growth rate 9%. Source: Money Management, October 1997.

Because we charge barely half the industry average, the value of your fund could be increased by thousands of pounds.

THE MOST CONSISTENT INVESTMENT RECORD

When choosing your pension provider, surely it makes sense to look for a consistently strong performer. After all, almost every company has some sort of success story to tell - perhaps one of their funds went through a brief purple patch at some stage. But how often have they been able to repeat it?

Annual surveys by Planned Savings magazine put the whole subject of long-term investment into perspective. Since the first survey in 1974, The Equitable Life's with-profits pensions have had 45 top ten placings out of a possible 56. Our nearest challenger has managed just 31.

Remember though, past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Contributions to the Society's pension

products are invested in its pension business fund. Since July 1997, pension funds can no longer recover tax credits on the dividends from UK equities but they continue to enjoy freedom from tax on capital gains and other income.

MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY

Not everyone is in a position to contribute a regular amount. And many can't be sure when they will retire, so they want to be able to change their retirement date if necessary without penalty.

No problem.

With an Equitable pension, you are free to increase or decrease your contributions at any time. And you can bring your retirement date forward or delay it, as you choose. Unlike some other companies, all without penalty.

IN SHORT

When it comes to pension planning you can't start too soon. The longer you leave it, the worse off you will be when you retire. But although time is of the essence, it is not the whole story. So choose your pension provider very carefully.

For more details by post and by telephone of our low-cost high-performance pension plans, call us on 0990 38 48 58 or complete the coupon below.

www.equitable.co.uk

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THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR.

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans.

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I am employed and not eligible to join a company pension scheme ☐ TMCC8B

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss)		
ADDRESS		
·		
Tel: (Office)	· -	
Tel: (Home)	···	
Date of Birth		

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. SA

BEAT THE FT-SE ALL-SHARE INDEX.

FUND	ENTRY CHARGES	EXIT CHARGES	AMMEAL Management Pee	GROWTH OVER 2 YRS	GROWTH OVER 3 YES
FIDELITY MOREYBOLDER GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+53.5%	+97.8%
VIRGIN GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+46.8%	NA
LAG UK INDEX	0%	0%	0.50%	+46.2%	+89.5%
FT-SEALLSHAFE NOEX	1¥A	N/A	N/A	+48.6%	+93,4%

MONEYBUILDER GROWTH PEP

The last two years have seen highs on the stockmarket and gains for tracker funds. But it's been even better for Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Growth PEP.

£3,000 invested in this PEP two years ago would Share Index, and high profile PEPs like the Virgin

Good Fortune? No way. We believe it's down to hard work. We build our portfolios, stock by stock, with our analysts and fund managers making over 46,000 company contacts every year worldwide. In fact, no one explores businesses more thoroughly.

It's what makes our PEPs so stockpickin' good. Don't just take our word for it, ask the expens.

We've just been voted Unit Trust Group of the Year by Micropal, and we've recently won the Money Observer Premier Group' Award.

But it's not just to do with consistent, strong performance. It's also to do with value. Unlike many other PEPs, none of our MoneyBuilder range charges you an entry or exit fee. Our annual management charges are amongst the very lowest you can find, and when ISAs come we promise to transfer your PEP into a Fidelity ISA on request and free of any conversion charges. So if you want a low cost, award winning PEP, phone now, speak to your IFA or send off the coupon.

And see if things don't start looking up!

BEST BUIT TRUST ERSUI

To: Fidelity Investments PO Box 88 Tonbridge Kent TN11 9DZ. Phone 0800 41 41 33. ☐ Please send me information on Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Growth PEP. \square Please send me information on the Fidelity MoneyBuilder range. We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Group.



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Other than the effect of the bid-offer spread, which should not exceed 0.79% for Pidelky MoneyBuilder Growth. Source of performance Micropal, bid to bid, grow income veinvested to 1/2/98. Performance since knowth vill. PM. Reference to tange refers to the Pidelky MoneyBuilder Growth. Source of performance is not income from them may fall as well as disc and an investor may not get back the amount invasived. MoneyBuilder Debridered Growth Toud Channeled M-2/941. Tax credits on equity dividends will be reclaimable within a PEP until April 1999, when the new Individual Sevings Accounts are to be insuched. PEPs will cease to exist in October 1999. Transfers to EAs maybe subject to a more digibility to invest in a PEP or EA will depend upon individual decuminances and all text rules may change in the forme. Heleky only provides information about in product and will not give investment advice. Samed by Pidelky Investments advice.

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Internet paves the way for cyber investor

Susan Emmett on financial tools

available on a screen near you

o you want to be a cyber investor but fear getting lost on the information superhighway? Millions of households are online and many users are launching into cyberspace in search of linan-cial information.

There are many Websites offering financial data, share prices and business news, and most high street financial service providers now have Websites. Often they amount to little more than advertising or an electronic brochure giv ing details of various financial products. However, the Na-tionwide and TSB offer online banking and Lloyds and Barciays will follow soon.

The greatest revolution in cyberspace has been the increase in independent sites offering financial information and share prices. Since the London Stock Exchange relaxed its rules last summer, the number of sites offering share price information has mushroomed. Many provide the service free with a 20-minute delay. Up-tothe minute prices require a subscription.

Some sophisticated sites offer portfolio management facilities and links to execution-only stockbrokers, putting armchair investors in the driving seat. If it is your first surf, do not expect all to be pe

fect at first. One wrong turn, A GUIDE you will not find facts on FOR Peps but will BEGINNERS . end download-

ing reams of irrelevant data. Follow the right signs, and you will have much of the information available to City experts at your fingertips.

What are the tools of the trade?

As financial Websites As financial weathers are using more and more technological wizardry, it pays to get relatively up-todate kit. You will need a PC, a modern and an account with an Internet Service Provider (ISP), which provides the link between you and the World Wide Web. If you opt for an outdated system with a slow modern you will be stuck in frustrating traffic jams rather than cruising the information superhighway.

So, wm a fortune? So, will it all cost me a

Experts say that internet access will be revolutionised by set-top boxes that will let you surf the Net via your television set. The contraptions are expected to cost about £200 and as a result, one in four homes is predicted to be online by 2000. The boxes are yet to appear in shops and the few available are slow and cumbersome.

For now, expect to spend about £800 on a PC and £50 on a decent modem, although they can be cheaper. The fastest moderns can be as much as £90.

A multitude of ISPs are competing to take you into cyberspace. America Online (AOL) is the biggest closely followed by CompuServe. There are many smaller ones and the Nationwide will become the first financial services organisation to provide a link this summer. An ISP account can cost anything from £5 to £15 a month, depending on usage. Unlimit-ed access is dearer. The good news is that the account is linked to you, not the machine. so you can use it on more than

Is it worth in venes and get from the Net that I

A lot of the financial in-formation on the Internet can be found in the financial press and in libraries more cheaply and sometimes more easily.

So, where is the best place to start?

A financial directory will A linaricial out of the Financial starting point is the Financial Information Net Directory (Find), at www.find.co.uk. It follows the Yellow Pages format and financial sites in the UK are grouped under headings such as Peps, Alternatively, sites such as Yahoo! on http://finance.yahoo.co.uk offer 20-minute delay-free price information share which is useful for quick reference. Up to the minute share information is available for a fee on sites such as Interactive Investor International www.iii.co.uk, Electronic Share Information www.esi.co.uk. Infotrade on www.infotrade.co.uk and

Is it possible to trade shares online?

Datastream Market-Eye Pre-

mium on www.market-

eye.co.uk.

A Cyber investors are on verge of being able to tronically, without hu-

that is current practice in America. At the moment, a few financial Websites offer gateways" or "trading floors" to brokers. These include infotrade and ESI, which provide links to brokers such as Charles Schwab, Caterdeal and Stocktrade, and more recently Datastream/ICV. where links to smaller brokers can be found on the Market-Eye site on www.marketeye.co.uk.

What about Peps and collective funds?

Charles Schwab, the in-A Charles Schwab, the three vestment retailer, says that in America 50 per cent of its transactions are done electronically. In Britain, Inland Pep applications must have a real signature on a piece of paper. However, investors buying Peps or unit trusts from Fidelity Investments can top them up on the Internet by Switch or Delta card on www.webxpress fidelity.co.uk. First-time Pep investors can shop around sites such as Interactive Investors International and Moneyworld, which offer information and data and provide a gateway to individual product providers.

Can I use the lines keep track of my invest-Can I use the Internet to ments abroad?

A If you invest in the American markets, you are If you invest in the Amerwell served by the Internet. A number of sites offer information on American companies. Yahoo! has links to the United States financial site (http://quote.yahoo.com) with 15-minute delayed feeds on all trading stocks on the New York and Nasdag exchanges.

If you want to keep track on investments further afield. Market Eye will come in handy. The site lists 32,000 international share prices in up to 60 countries, including all the markets in the European Union. New York, Tokyo, Sidney, Singapore, Hong Kong and São Paulo are among those covered.







hop to it

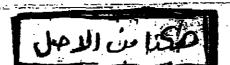
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Boost profits by piling them low and selling them dear

ou have set up your business, people seem to want what you are selling and you are happy with the way things are going. But there's one thing you would like to improve upon - the amount of profit you make.

Many businesses set up initially selling their goods or services too cheaply, partly because they want to attract customers and partly because of the fear factor of failing because prices are excessive.

If your business is not making as much money as you think it should there are three main ways to raise profitability - two short term and one longer term. If you want to make an almost immediate difference to your profits you can cut costs, or increase prices.

■ COST CONTROL

This is the most effective way to short-term higher profitability. Because of this it is cost of what you are selling useful to get

into the habit of calculating the extra sales you need to pay for an increase in costs. For example, you decide to advertise in a local newspaper at a cost of

could be put to better use £200 a week and because you make £20 clear profit on each sale, you

expense you have to sell ten more items a week. Once you are in this mode you will quickly equate a reduction in costs to extra profitability, a good discipline for any businessman. The best way to to run a tight cash-control system and regularly review your

know that to justify the extra

business expenses Many people believe costs vary only very occasionally but this is not necessarily true and what cost £100 to buy in last month might be available now for £95, so keep a comprehensive list of all your suppliers' charges and review it at least once a month.

Pay close attention to core costs and although things like business rates are non-negotiable, other overheads like rent, telephone bills, insurance premiums, stationery expenses and travel costs can often be cut by looking for alternative suppliers or taking advantage of special offers.

In business, most things are negotiable and it is worthwhile trying to renegotiate costs with your suppliers as often as you think you can.

You should also look at the whole of your business to see where else you might be able to cut your costs. Consider your stock levels and ask if it would be possible to reduce

them because cash tied up in items waiting to be used could be put to better use.

You should also question customers who are paying late since this affects your cash flow, and although it somewhat contradicts this rule, paying your suppliers too

early must be avoided. One of the secrets of increas ing your profits is to keep the same number of staff while achieving higher sales, so look at each person's role within the business and see if it is possible reasonably to increase their productivity.

■ RAISING PRICES

There is no automatic link between prices and costs, which means that you do not need to justify price rises by citing cost increases.

Small price rises of about 5 per cent can often result in a sizeable jump in profits because, although raising the unit

£5.25 might

very lucra-

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the extra 25p

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Cash tied up in stock that is waiting to be used

> ive market, raising prices to increase profits will be hard and you might need to look at other methods of increasing how much your business makes

> Try to avoid giving discounts and if you are offering money off for bulk sales, stick to the quantity set before reducing your unit price. Whatevare justified in raising prices in line with inflation and now this is almost expected.

■ SELLING MORE

While it is almost impossible to double prices or halve costs. it might be viable over time to double the amount you sell. Do not try to raise sales by cutting prices because this will achieve little except a price war with competitors and pressure on profit margins.

There are four main ways to sell more - improve your company's image, advertise, improve the skills of the people who sell your goods or services or seek new markets or products. All of these tactics come at a cost and you need to weigh this up against potential longer-term benefits to your business. However, remember that increased sales usually means more working capital and can have a negative impact on your cashflow, so make sure you have the funds before

JOHN GIVENS

Why does money grow in our Blue Chip PEP? Look at the Fundamentals.

Tf you're looking to make your money grow, why look 🎩 at blue chips? The facts speak for themselves. These hundred or so well known companies are the biggest, brightest and best in the land. They possess strong management and control some of the most successful brands ever created. In a nutshell, they're ideal for the heart of your portfolio.

M&C's Blue Chip PEP Fund – part of our Fundamentals range - will help you take advantage of their strength.

EXCELLENT VALUE

There's no initial charge, every penny you invest goes straight to work, and there's no withdrawal fee either. The dealing spread was 0.5% at 2.1.98.

Investing in Britain's best companies

Our Blue Chip PEP Fund is designed to pinpoint the cream of Britain's companies. Currently, you could be tapping into the success of such famous names as Shell, Glaxo Wellcome and BT. As you can see from the panel, those who have already invested are reaping handsome rewards, this fund is a top performer in its sector.*

Forecasts for the medium and long term future of blue chip companies remain bright, with rising dividends expected. These can be taken as a tax free income, or reinvested to increase your investment.

LONG TERM INVESTMENT GOALS

Whether you're saving for school fees, or simply need an extra pool of savings to dip into when you retire, the merits of a stake in 'Great Britain PLC' are plain to see.

Why look any further for a long term total return? There's Fundamentally only one choice - The M&G Blue

For full details and application forms. Call:



The M&G ISAbility Promise

Having founded the UK unit trust industry in 1931, M&G has grown to become one of the country's largest providers of PEPs. We now manage over £3 billion for tax conscious vestors. With the Government's proposals to replace PEPs with ISAs – Individual Savings Accounts - in 1999, M&G was the first fund manager to make a public commitment on the Issue - the M&G ISAbility promise. To ensure a smooth transition for PEP holding to our ISA.

All the more reason to take advantage of this year's PEP allowance as soon as possible Time is running out to claim your PEP allocation for this tax year, so don't miss out.

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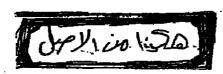
and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

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a look at the Scottish Widows Premier Savings Plan. It's a with profits endowment plan that's designed to turn an affordable monthly saving into a substantial lump sum in any time from ten to twenty years.

Over the last ten years, we have achieved an average growth of up to 9.4% p.a. - if a man aged 24 had started saving £50 a month ten years ago, today he could be receiving a cheque for £9,772! You can save from £50 a month from ten up to twenty years. So If you want to make your savings work harder, find out more today.

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Pradeep and Sonya Agrawala are still smiling in spite of the £3,583.51 return from a total investment of £3,600

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Open to LIK residents only. Only one pen and pencil set per household. First Namels

ium age at entry S4) _ _ _ _ _ 19 _ _ _

Source: Scottish Wildows, Returns on 1 November 1997 on a regular saving amount of £50 a month from November 1987 inclusive. Relates to a man aged 24 for the 10 year cash option value of a similar plan to the Premier Savings Plan. Plan penecessarily a guide to the future. With profits maturity and surrender values cannot be guaranteed in advance. The information g

Perpetual's UK Growth unit engineer from Wembley Park trust it would have grown to North London, said: "I find E8.625. Even if he had put the it impossible to understand how a big company can continue to run a fund like this, money into a Halifax account it would have grown to which is purely savings related and does not even return shares bonus worth more than the contribution over a long period of ten years. I was

under the impression that if you put money into regular savings month after month then after ten years you could expect a reasonable return. I find the whole thing totally incomprehensible."

Birthday celebrations

Mr Agrawala was the victim of life assurance sales methods common at the time he signed up to the policy, just months before the introduction of the Financial Services Act. He was contacted in 1988 by a saleswoman for Regency Life, which was bought by

Aegon in 1991. He says the saleswoman at the time — "a girlfriend of a friend of a friend" — told him that property was the best investment for his daughter's nest egg. She advised him to put all the money into the Property Series II fund, which was invested in commercial property such as offices and shopping centres, even though Regency offered a range of unit-linked funds with much

safer risk profiles: She told me that property would be a very safe bet — you have to remember this was the late 1980s - but I didn't know it was all going into commercial property," said Mr

One respected independent financial adviser, Roddy Kohn of Bristol-based Kohn Cougar, says that no one should be advised to put all of a regular savings plan into a single, high-risk area such as commercial property. He said: "Investors with small amounts should consider a unit trust savings plan with the money going into a general managed

or broadly spread internation-al equity fund."

Regency also levied high charges on Mr Agrawala's E30 a month Universal Savings Plan, pocketing his first nine months' contributions in charges and extracting another El a month as a policy fee. Furthermore, Regency proved to be a poor manager of property investments, with its performance lagging most of its competitors.

Mr Agrawala is angry that Regency and then Aegon failed to take remedial action to improve the fund's performance or to keep him notified of how badly it was doing. An investor can expect to receive an annual statement on the progress of any policy. And if it is unit-linked, the investor would usually be given the option of a free switch into other investment areas.

e said: "Nobody wrote to me suggesting that interview into
switch my investment into another area. I didn't even receive any annual reports from Regency, although I did when Aegon took over.

Aegon Financial Services direct sales force for most of the 1990s, has now fallen into the hands of the Life Assurance Holding Corporation, a vulture company set up to acquire ailing insurance companies. The administration for AFS policies is carried out by Scottish Equitable, which is also owned by Aegon, a large Dutch insurer based in The Hague.

around 1,000 people bought the Regency Universal Savings Plan. The charges on the policy were fairly standard for the time, and you must remember that the policy also offered life assurance cover worth 75 per cent of the total premiums. The key factor appears to be the type of investment selected. If he had chosen Regency's baianced fund, his policy would have been worth £5,200.

The policy was sold before the Financial Services Act, and Regency would have simply set up the contract as instructed. The salesworman was working on a general agency agree-ment, not a restricted agency basis, which means she wasn't a direct saleswoman for Regency but could sell the products of veral different companies."

Mr White added that policy holders with Scottish Equitable are sent an annual statement on the progress of their policy. including a switch form for anyllody who wants to move their investments around.

What lessons can be learnt from Mr Agrawala's misfortune? Mr Agrawala is the first to say that he did not properly monitor his investment, impedfrom Regency. "It goes to show the pitfalls of not monitoring the investments, particularly unit-linked ones with insurance companies.

Mr Kohn added: "It says a lot about the structure of charges at the time, but a lot has been done since then to ensure investors have more information to allow them to make a more informed choice.

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Failure to keep track of long-term investment plans can prove very expensive, says Patrick Collinson

the insurance company, Aegon Financial Services, had

Meanwhile, other invest-

ments over the same period

crash low of below 1,700 points

300 per cent. If Mr Agrawala had put the money into

£4,430.59 and received a free

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Scott White, an Aegon



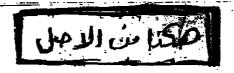
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REE STACKING 5

Caroline Merrell tunes in to the options available to Liam and Noel Gallagher



Britpop shock: wild rockers Liam Gallagher, left, and his brother Noel are reported to have invested around £12 million in pensions products

What's the pensions story?

ensions planning, an activity that was once the province of the prudent wage slave, has attracted the attention of Noel and Liam Gallagher, the tearaway broth-

ers of the Britpop band Oasis. In an uncharacteristically mature move, the brothers are reported to have poured a total of £12 million into pensions, perhaps in an effort to beat the labyrinthine carry forward and carry back rules that allow unused pension allowances of several years to be used up

before the end of the tax year. Liam, at 25, the younger of the two brothers, is said to have chosen to invest a total of £5 million in some species of pension plan. His youth means that he is entitled to invest a maximum of 17.5 per cent of his annual income in a personal pension plan. The Revenue, however, caps the amount of earnings on which pension contributions can be based.

current tax year, although he be returned to Gallagher via a would also benefit from 40 per refund of tax. cent tax relief (£9,800).

It seems unlikely that the younger Gallagher would have made a pension provision before this point, so his financial adviser may have allocated some more of his millions under the carry back provisions which allow you to exploit any unused allowances from the previous year.

This could be of benefit if, by some extraordinary quirk of the rock business, he had only paid tax at the basic rate of 23 per cent in the previous year. Any carry back payment would attract tax relief at the rate of the year in which the contribution was made.

If Liam Gallagher wants to make this extra pension provision, and in the unlikely event that he is classified as selfemployed, then he would have had to alert the Revenue via his With the earnings cap current-ly set at £84,000, Liam may relief on the contribution that

invest only £14,700 in the had been carried back would

Gallagher could also make some contributions under the carry forward scheme. This allows unused pension allowances from previous years to be

The carry forward provi-

sions relate to up to six years previously, so if at the tender age of 19, Liam Gallagher had contributed less than 17.5 per cent of net relevant earnings in to a pension, then he can choose to invest any shortfall this year. However, he can only use up these past pension contributions if he has made the maximum contribution

Noel Gallagher's allowances are very similar to those of his brother; he, too, is allowed to invest only 17.5 per cent of his annual salary in a personal pension, subject to the overall cap of £84,000. In five years' time, the amount Noel can invest will increase to 20 per

cent. This rises to a total of 40 per cent when the Gallaghers reach the ripe old age of 6).

Because both brothers' earnings exceed the earnings cap, they face the problem of saving enough in a pensions scheme to ensure that they can continue to enjoy the trappings of stardom in their dotage. In order to do this, they could choose to invest in a Funded Unapproved Retirement Benefit Scheme (Furbs), which provides retirement benefits for those affected by the earnings cap. The fact

"unapproved" simply means that no tax relief is given on contributions.

Another way they could get around the earnings cap would be to set up a series of companies based around different parts of their businesses. according to Charles Levett-Scrivener, of Towry Law, the financial advisers. He said: "They could then set up many different schemes. Each one would benefit from its own

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Take action before end of tax year

I f you are inspired by Liam and Noel's provisions, so taking advantage of the example, you should act before the end of unused reliefs of the previous six years. If example, you should act before the end of the tax year. There are rumours that the Chancellor may be planning to abolish the past, you should consult a financial some would say this is unlikely given that pensions and pension provision are currently the subject of a review, this did not stop Gordon Brown from withdrawing the dividend tax credit given to pension funds in his. first Budget.

You can contribute up to 15 per cent of your salary to a company pension. If you are not paying in the full amount, you can make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). The Inland Revenue permits you to pay from 17.5 per cent to 40 per cent of your earnings into a pension, depending on your age. Only personal pension plan holders can use the carry forward and carry back

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Water Barry

You should look for a plan that allows you to vary your contributions and to take contribution bolidays without penalty. Plans with initial units are to be avoided because these are simply a way of paying more commission to middlemen. Chartwell Instment Management (01225 446556) publishes a guide to "clean pensions" (price £12.50). These are flexible plans with low charges. BESt Investment has prepared a guide to best-buy personal pensions that lists worst buys £9.99 (0171-321 0100).

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The Steward

Caroline Merrell explains the thinking behind the buyback Halifax's new scenario

he flotation of the build-ing societies created millions of new shareholders. Those who decided to retain their shares are slowly being educated in the ways of the stock market. The subject of the latest lesson for Halifax investors is the share buyback.

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year (with income reinvested).

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During the announcement of its 1997 profits, the bank revealed that it would be spending up to £1 billion buying back its own shares. The Halifax also announced its 17.5p per share dividend for the year, payable on May 11 and worth £57.75 to a customer with the average holding of 330 shares.

The share buyback programme was greeted unenthusiastically by some analysts because they believed that the Halifax should have used some of its £4 billion in spare cash to pay shareholders a special one-off dividend, like the Woolwich. As investors are discovering, the value of a share buyback to shareholders is far more difficult to

What exactly is a share buyback?

at a certain price. The company then cancels the shares. A smaller number of shares



A little extra: Halifax has announced that it intends to use £1 billion of its cash surplus to buy back its own shares

A share buyback is when a company goes into the market to buy its own shares

means that earnings per share are greater. Only companies that have a surplus of cash are in a position to carry out such examples of financial eng-

Why is the Halifax buy-ing back the shares?

The Halifax suffers from The Halifax suffers from having an excess of capital, around £4 billion to be precise. The board believes that spending £1 billion on its own shares will be better for shareholders than leaving the money as cash, which will earn around 7 per cent

What is the effect of a share buyback on the price of stock?

A share buyback effect-A snare buyback enectively underpins the share price because as soon as the price falls to a certain level, the Halifax's brokers, Merrill Lynch and Cazenove, will step

in to mop up the stock.

The investing institutions, who hold around a third of the shares of Halifarian Canlikely to sell because many now run index-tracker trusts. These trusts must hold the same

shares that are included in the FTSE 100 index (Footsie) of leading shares, with the aim of imitating the performance of the index. The Halifax is a Footsie stock.

At what price will the Halifax buy back the

A The Halifax refused to reveal the price that it was willing to pay for its shares. But on Wednesday Merrill Lynch, the broker. spent around £46 million buying up shares at 961p.

What other action could What outer annual the Halifax have taken to use up surplus capital?

The Halifax could A have spent the money in the same way as the Woolwich, by paying a special dividend to shareholders. Many brokers with small shareholder clients feel that this might be a much better way of dealing with the excess capital than going through a buyback programme. Some analysis believe that the Halifax should use its capital to

purchase another company.

Mike Blackburn, Halifax's

chief executive, claims that the prices of UK shares are just too high at the moment for him to make a purchase. He said: "There is an awful lot of

However, the Halifax is still hoping to make a purchase at some point. The bank is hoping to diversify away from its core businesses. Its share of the mortgage market has been hit by new competitors that offer better and cheaper products. A life insurance company, such as the Norwich Union, might be be an obvious purchase.

Will the share buyback have any effect on the shareholders buy and sell shares?

A No, anyone will be able to buy and sell shares in the usual way through their

Should shareholders Should share sell their stock?

In spite of the fact that shares in the Halifax are trading at 20 times earnings, many believe that the shares are still worth holding. The banking sector has had a very

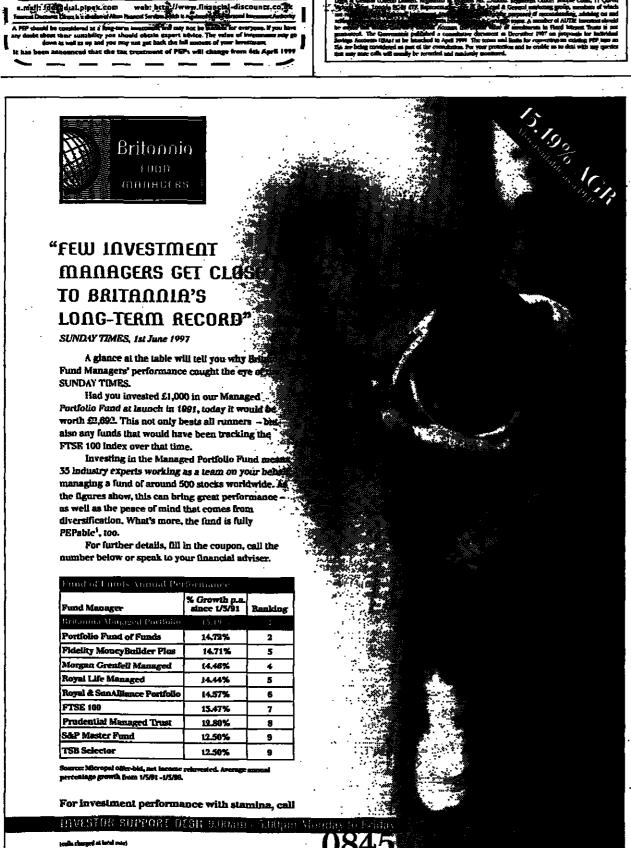
strong run, but low inflation and low interest rates mean that shares in the financials could still continue to rise. There is also a possibility that the Halifax will buy another company, when it is prudent to do so. Making the correct purchase could be good for the

When will the Halifax pay the dividend?

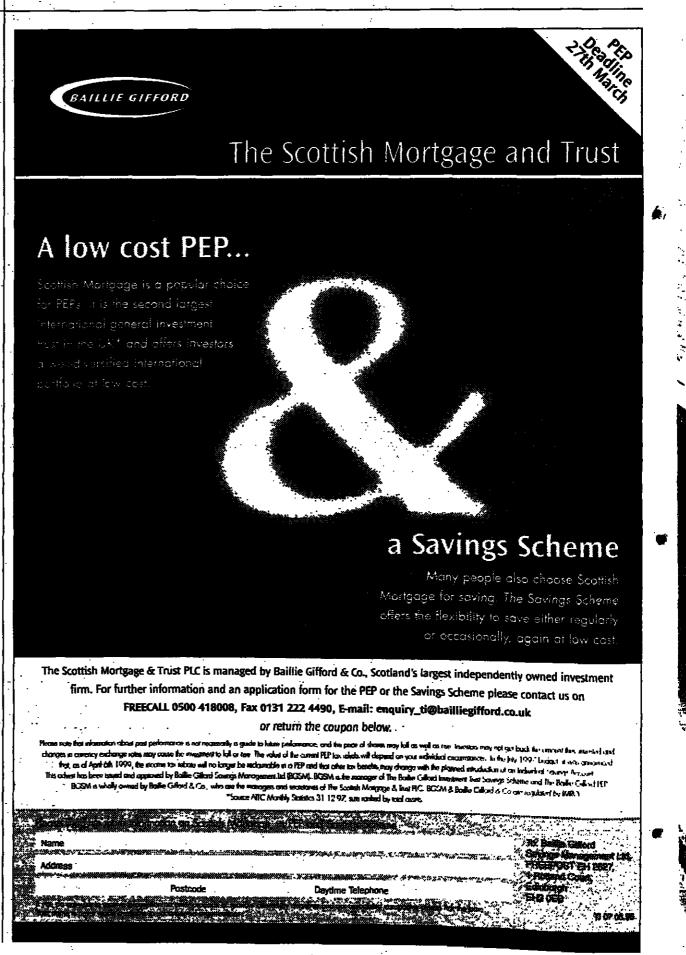
The dividend will be paid out by the company on May 11, while the exdividend date will be March 4. If shares are hought on or fafter this date through a broker the new owner will not be entitled to receive the May 1998 dividend.

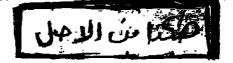
How will the dividend How will the dividend be paid to share-

A The dividend will be paid directly into the account holding the shares, or by cheque if the shareholders did not specify the account. This dividend relates to the full financial year of 1997. In future, dividends will normally be paid half-yearly in May and October.



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Northern roars into pole position

or some, the hunt for the highest paying savings account is an adrenalin sport. Formula One holds no greater thrill than the chase for the latest

the buy

Other savers take a more relaxed view, rarely examining rates. This easygoing attitude has suited savings institutions who would not wish to have everyone clamouring for the highest returns. But a change is just a lap away which should give a better deal for all savers, not only the top gear set.

In a sudden burst of virtue, styred by criticism from Westend stirred by criticism from Weekend Money, the Northern Rock has decided to inform all customers of rate changes and new accounts.

Faced with the evidence of poor returns, formerly complacent sav-ers in Northern Rock's older, less generous accounts will be shocked into switching to newer versions.



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

Meanwhile, the Northern Rock will itself benefit from its change of heart, as more customers opt to keep faith with it and become borrowers, as well as savers. The profit enhancing results of this loyalty scheme should force the bank's competitors to follow suit.

Loan ranger THE Consumer Credit Act is failing in its aim to protect borrowers, partly because both loans and lenders have become more sophisticated. Once, the annual percentage rate gave a clear picture of the true cost of a mortgage. But because lenders now calculate their fixed and discounted rates in a number of different ways, the figure is now useless. Redemption penalties, as we reveal on pages 57-58, are another area of confusion.

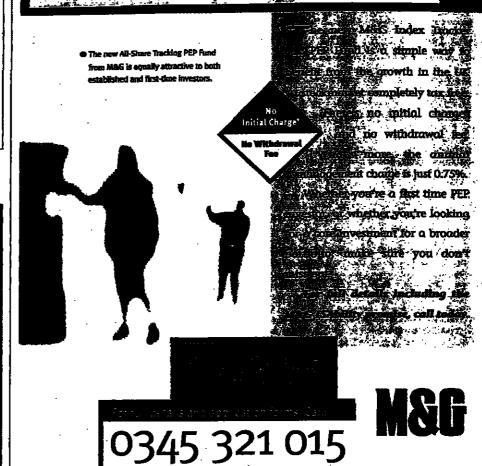
Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, is now consulting on various aspects of consumer credit, including APRs. He should

extend this review to the whole Act. A reform of consumer credit laws would not make the reputation that he so hugely desires. But it would make life simpler for the hapless borrower.

Just in case

The offices of accountants are full just now of clients attempting to use every tax concession before the Budget. Yet the Treasury has chosen to target an obscure trust loop-hole only the fabulously wealthy can afford to exploit. Some say the move is a smokescreen, intended to give the impression that the Chancellor is being tough on tax avoidance. They claim this means he will not feel obliged to do much more in the Budget. However, those currently arranging their tax affairs are unlikely to cease, preferring to be safe, rather than sorry.

New from M&G. The Index Tracker PEP with Fundamental benefits.



Clare Stewart says it's capital how these trusts top the ratings



Going for the splits can often be painful but the results are usually worthwhile

Mind the gap if you want to split

comes to performance tables. Sharp-eyed investors comparing investment trust performances cannot fail to have been impressed by the from split-capital

These trusts have been racing away and leaving conventional investment trusts - en for taking the view that the looking a little lacklustre. Figures from Micropal, the inperformance statistics specialist, show that split-capital trusts make up all of the 1997 top ten investment trust performers.

Growth of 388.61 per cent in the year to the beginning of March puts Scottish National's split-capital trust the leader on a one-year basis. Taking conventional investment trusts alone, the top performer on a one-year basis is Foreign & Colonial Enterprise Trust with growth of 76.09 per cent.

William Eccles, a director of Foreign & Colonial Ventures. said: The gap between the two types of trust has become very obvious as the markets have been so strong. But he says that comparing the two groups means the performance tables are distorted, which "may be seriously misleading investors".

Foreign & Colonial is a successful and long-estab-



lished investment group, but trusts, so you might be forgivcompany would say that wouldn't it", as Mandy Rice-Davies once said so famously

in another place.
But the advice of "mind the gap" is worth bearing in mind when looking at the complicated workings of split-capital trusts. Mark Dear, of the financial advisers Holden Meehan, says: "We tread very carefully with investment trusts especially with splitcapital trusts, and issue huge health warnings. We generally expect people to be experi-

enced investors." Split trusts invest in a range of companies, as do conventional trusts, but differ in key ways. They issue several types of share, and have a limited life so that after a specified period of say five or ten years are wound up, and shareholders receive the assets.

In their simplest form, a split-capital trust divides its shares into income shares, which pay income in the form

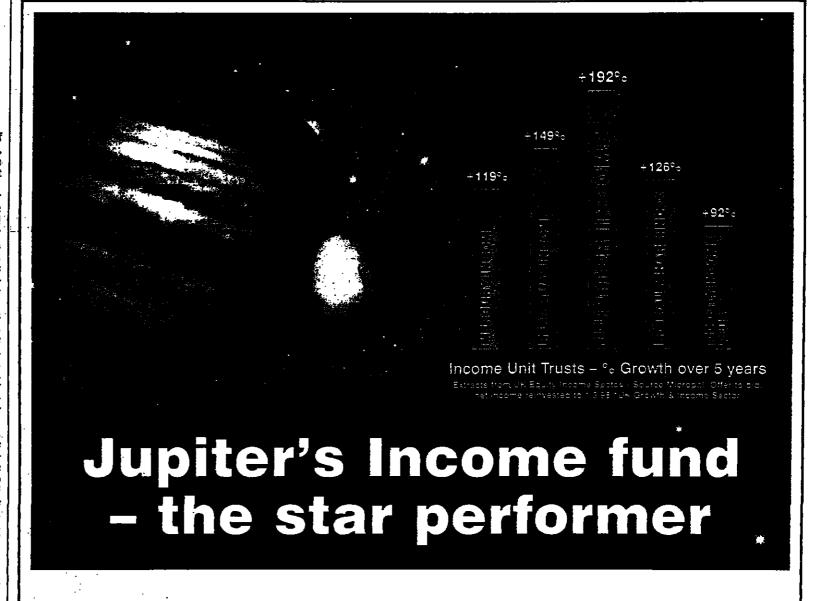
the trust, and capital shares, which pay the capital growth from the trust's investment vhen it is wound up.

There are a number of other classes of share that may be issued such as zero dividend preference shares, which pay out a predetermined sum when the trust is wound up. The different classes of share that are on offer mean investors can match them to their investment requirements.

Each class of share comes with a different tax liability. For example, gains made when a trust is wound up will be liable to capital gains tax, but will look attractive to a taxpaver who can offset any liability against their full annual allowance, currently £6,500.

When a trust is wound up, the different share classes are repaid in order of their priority. This year and next will see a number of trusts coming to the end of their lives, and while shareholders will be offered the opportunity to roll over into a new trust, they will also be able to take their

This is already having an impact on the market, as the disappearance of trusts reduces choice for investors, and has helped to drive prices up as demand outstrips supply.



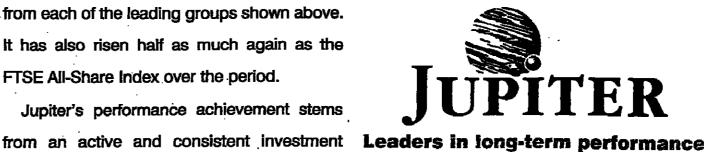
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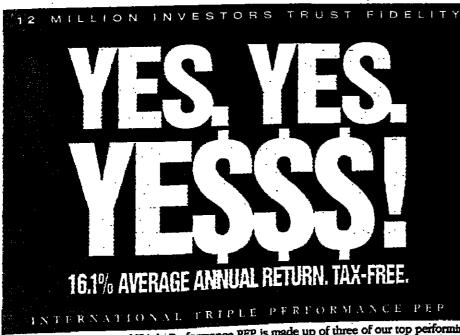
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SAVERS BEST BUYS

Tessa boosted as rates rise to 8%

Tessa rates at Norwich with your local tax office. and Peterborough Building Society are to rise on Tuesday. The variable interest rate on the Tessa Select (first Tessa) and Tessa Elite II (follow-on Tessa) will be 8 per cent gross, up from 7.85 per cent, Only one Tessa may be held at a time by an investor and interest is credit-ed on the anniversary of the account being opened. The minimum investment is £100. and the maximum is £9.000. Both accounts are subject to loss of interest if the account is closed or transferred. Bradford and Bingley Build-ing Society already offers a rate of 8 per cent, but the minimum balance required on its first Tessa is £500.

- SA

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■ The Inland Revenue is asking taxpayers to give their views on self-assessment. Comments on what aspects of the form-filling went well and what aspects need improvement are particularly sought. Write to Clive Hall, Inland Revenue, Business Operations Division. Room 416. South West Wing. Bush House, Strand, London. WC2B 4RD, to arrive by May 29. Specific comments on, or inquiries about, personal tax

Ten of the most commonly asked questions on stakeholder pensions have been answered in Legal & General's free factsheet. It reveals the tax advantages in opting for a stakeholder pension, how much it will cost you, and if it is better for you to stay with your employer's pension scheme. Call 0500-909 090 for a copy or visit L&G's Website on www.landg.com.

English Heritage is keeping its joining fees at 1997 prices until April I this year. A family of two adults and all children under 21 can enjoy a year's unlimited free access to more than 120 properties and historic sites, such as Stone-henge, for £40. Members also receive free entry to Charles Darwin's home, Down House, Downe, near Bromley. Kent. which is due to open this April. Individual memberships are: adults, £23; senior citizens, £14.50; 16 to 20-year-olds, £15; and, juniors, £10. Telephone 0171-973 3434 for an application form before March 13, or you can pay by credit card over the telephone by March 31.

LIZANNE ROSE

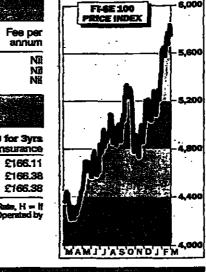
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INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	interest paid
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657 Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829	Direct Access Instant Access	InstantT InstantB	£1 £100	6.96 7.00	Yly Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£1,000	7.30	Yly
Northern Rock 0845 600 6767	Save Dir Inst	InstantB	25,000	7.80	Yly
		Notice		-	Interest
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Select 90	96 day p	210,000	7.90	ΥİÝ
Birmingham Midshires 0645.720721	First Class 120	120 dayp	£10,000	7.95 	Yly
·		Notice			Interest
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	peid
Norwich & Peterbro BS 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Yly
Lambeth BS 0800 326632	Postal Tessa	5 year	£1,800	7.95	Yly
Mansfield BS 01246 202055		5 year	£500	7.90	Yly

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nī
RBS Advanta 0800 077770 Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Visa Advantage Visa	0.64%N 0.69%NC	7,90%N 8,60%N	NII NE
PERS	3 74,65	Tem Harman		
PERSONAL LOANS	200	Monthly payment with insurance	ent on £5,00	0 for 3yrs
		Monthly paym	ent on £5,00 no	
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly paym with insurance	ent on £5,00 e no 3	Insurance

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



0645 645000 0645 645000 ary A/c¹ 2.00 1.60 1.20 10-10.000⁴⁴
ment A/c² 4.75 3.80 2.85 1.499**7 1mih
as Bond* 7.00 5.60 4.202.000-25,000** 3mih
opt Bonds 8.75 5.40 4.051,000-20,000** Ordinary A/C1 Income Bond* 7.00 OR45 B45000 45th Issue Certh: : 5.00 Children's Bond! 6,25 Gen Ext Rate 3.51 100-10,000 8day 25-1,000 1mm 0645 645000 0845 645000 Gen Ext Rate 3.51
Capital Bonds a 6.25 5.00 3.75 100-250,000 8day 12th Ind Linkedts 2.50 100-10,000 8day Pensina Bond S4 e 6.50 5.20 3.90 500-50,000 60day 0845 645000 0845 645000 * limit 670 (6140 jt) of art text free, and acces for up to 6100 * Unlembed scholums history for interested proceeds. *Flori here: "Rates gross and vibre sGuaranteed when held for 5 years 0.2% not bornus for 620,000 ** \$100,000 ft and bornus for \$20,000 ft and bornus for \$20,000 ft and \$20 ft and

> All figures are the gross annual annulty (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance Age 65 SINGLE LIFE (level enn) Mele: Age 60 Age 70 £11,298 £11,235 £11,006 £11,362 £11,048 £ 9,772 £ 9,754 £ 9,688 £ 9,632 £ 9,620 £ 8,640 £ 8,667 £ 8,643 £ 8,322 £ 8,516 Sun Life _____Level Carada Life ____Level Legal & General _Level Commercial Un __Level Standard Lf ____Level Age 65 Age 70 SINGLE LIFE Female: Age 60 £ 8,840 £ 8,649 £ 8,631 £ 8,601 £ 8,552 28,005 27,827 27,810 £10,048 Canada Life ... Norwich Un ... Sun Life £ 9,863 £ 9,812 £ 9,891 £ 9,622 Age 65 Age 60 JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity) £8,058 £8,021 £7,995 £7,984 £7,950 £ 8,962 £ 8,842 £ 8,768 £ 8,837 £ 8,753 £7,405 £7,435 £7,360 £7,373 £7,377

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000) Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

Legal & General...Level

rs snould be discussed	DIZANNE NOSE
GUARANTEED	INCOME BONDS
ANNUA	LINCOME
Rates as at Fo	ebruary 26, 1998
Investment (£)	Standard Company Rate (%)

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		-	
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.60
2 Years			
	1.000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.32
3 Years	•		
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.05
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.08
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.13
4 Years			·
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.50
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
	10,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.80
	10,000	Hambro Assured	5.85

FN/FD 047F	Gross	Buying	Gross		purchase
FIXED RATE	coupon	price	yield	price	amoun
Birmingham Midshire	es 9.375%	126.50	7.41	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	154 <i>.2</i> 5	7.54	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	172.75	7.53	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	174.00	7.47	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	160.25	7.57	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	157 .2 5	7.47	100.25	
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	184.25	7 .2 6	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	151.75	7.08	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	176,50	7.15	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	179.75	7.16	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUI	BORDINA	TED BOI	NDS		
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	159,50	7.37	100,98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	116.25	7.53	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	153.25	7.83	100.28	50,000
Halifax '	13.630%	187.00	7.29	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13,380%	179.50	7 <i>.</i> 45	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	169.00	7.47	100.14	1,000
PRS=Permanent Interest	hearten eboma	Sama Ga	aranich No	- TAlent	
SHARE IN FOCUS					2,800
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on the party world and the	5-7-142-1 3		ن السام		2,400
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PIBS

Lender	interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 miths more discs,£290fer
Northern Rock ¹ 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.4.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.75	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1,3,00 0.5%/loan,max2300
Hallfax 01422 333333	4.95	no max	75	£295 fee Fixed to 31,3.00
Wootwich? 0181 298 5831 ' buildings and contents	4.99	£15-250k	95	Fixed to 1.4.00 £350 fee

0/				Ţ.
70				
Lender	interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.20	£1-150k	80	8,44% dsc - 1 year £250 fee
Scarborough¹ 0990 133149	0.50	to £150k	80	8.19% dsc - 1 year
Bank of Ireland 0118 9684300	0.99 9	220-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more decs, £280 fe
Leeds & Holbeck ¹ 0113 225 7777	1.45	to £180k	95	7% dsc - 6 mths more dscs apply
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.50 9	25-175k	80 .	6% disc-6 mins, more discs apply

NB. 1 computerry products; buildings and contents insurance.

Lender	interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3,49	no max	95	
Newbury 01635 43676	5.10	£30-100k	95	3% disc-12 mnths
Wesleyan 0121 200 3003	5,35	to £100k	95	3,25% disc for 12 mnths
Alliance & Leic¹ 0345 108108	. 5.69	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.3.00, £150 fee
¹ buildings and	contents o	over compl	ulsory	

arger landers, loans and lisst-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides (Jid. (0175) 890482).

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					N Amer & Genri Pacific Basin	a(0.91 280.53
ABBEY LIFE Holdenburd Ros	ad. Bou	rnemout			Japan Growth	134.58
BHS 5 AL 01202 292373						13173 334.50
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Ethical SI International SI	236.10 19400 233.30	201.20 245.60	- 2.30 - 0.50	••	Flued Interest Eash Fund	425.20 322.05
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Nun Pacific Lumpean M	156.40	jestju jestju	- 5.80 • 0.30	•	Nth After Petus	384.41
t unspean 54 Prop 1d Ser 4 Equits 5er 4 Man Ser 4	101.20	465.40 85.80	• D.40		BRITANNIA 50 Bodhwell St. 0141 245 2000	Chamme
Man Set 4	V1D.40	O54 51	- 1.10 - 243	٠	0141 245 2000	
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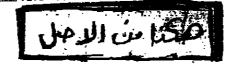
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क- रिवासका	21250	223.30	• Q 10 ·	І	Real MEARY,	Hb34 89	0 000		
merica wa	519.50	545.90	- 270	1	(Unite): Key I	245_0		•••	
at Earl Chill	164.10	177 00	-11.30	I	-do- Pacemaker !	存む		•	· · •
Internated ACC	PA KI	66.60	- 6.30	. 1	do-Cath	228.57		+ 11.22	
TO ALCOURT	593.20	024.50	- ъЮ.	I	-do-Equily	841,50	138. 31	+27 69	
JAN REQU	147.10		4 230	1	do-Fat ini	454.[]	443.27	- 1.36	
nconst ACC	215 (4)	ASK NO	- 440	1	-do-Man-god	585.75	414-59	•15 <u>.8</u> 5	
perial Site Acc	145.50	453.50	. دهم -		-to-Property	450.79		• 417	
rut treb Acc	215.20	13060	- 1113		(Perst Cash Cap	23341	232.56	+ 1719	
las seed mac				•					
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ج ن جا يا			gr	- - .	: 771:		es Tale de	<u></u>	

	22.0	×.	10	4年16	N-z							
١ ١	İ		Offer	With Yid	1	略	Offer	With Yid	!	Bid	Offer	With of
,	-do- Cash Inv -do- Equily Cap	302.47 2188.65	381.56 2303.85	+ 0.52 + 0.57	GUARDIAN R	Logida	EC3. 01	IGE 71 263 7161	Europesa Far Bast	227.80 (35.60	239.70 (42.70	+ 0.30 - 7.60
	do- Equity Inv do- Fixed Cap	3990±0 492,65	9779.59 518.59	• 3.49 • 0.75	Asi Prop Bds Managed Initial	987.5Q 627.7Q	60.80 660.80 1012.50	- 250	LONDON LIE Spectrus, Bene		Belistol.	BEI 24
	do-Fixed inv do-Index Cap	234.27	850.78 240.01	- 045	do Ace Equity Initial	1065.40	121.40	- 460	817 984 7777			
	-do-Indes Inv -do-Muga Cup	352_33 850_jo	434.57 894.92	- (L24	-do- Act Fixed Int initial	527.60	1718.30 955.40	- 7.00 + 0.40	Equity:	1440.90 562.20		- 5.X
	-do-Mayd inv		1466.15	• 0.52	-do-Acc Loui loide?	536.40	851.XI 564.40	+ 0.60 - 2.47	Property : Deposit :	513,60 338,80		+ 0.90 + 8.40
- 1	COMMERCIAL St Helen's, I Us	المقدمات	N LECSO	171 283 7500	-do- Acc Nth Apper Initial	3172) 83170)	864,80 328,90	- 3.70 + 0.30	Mixed ! Indexed Stock.!	850.60 275.20		+ 0.70
	Var ann acc (S) : Var ann (S) !	1279,47 1,37,35		• 949 • i.43	-to- Acc Pacific (nitial	435.70 154.80	62.70	• 0.40 • 2.50	International : Equity A :	344.00 332.80		- TR
	Prime: Managed Prime: UK Equity	B01250	611.20 849.00	- 0.70 - 0.40	-do- Acc Property Leddal	2(13.50) 203.40	224.70 214.10	- 360	Fixed int A t Property A t	245.30 234.30		+ 0.70
	Prime int Equity Prime Property	243.30	· 394,50 298,20	- 200	-tio-Acr Index-Loyd Initi	31 L60 184.50	121L00 194.20	*** ***	Deposit A 2 Mixed A 2	198.20 278.30		+ 6.21 - 6.40
	Prime: Fed int Prime Index-Lak	284,70 207.00	303.90 217.90	- (140)	-dn- Acc Deposit Inkial	257.20) 211.00)	270.80 222.10	• 0.20	Index Stock A: International A:	214.50 214.00		+ 0.5
1	Pflane Cash	217.90	246-20	• 0 30	-do-Acc Euro (nicial	323.30 199.40	140.30 167,80	• 0.30	Equity P:	1295.70 780.80		- 5.K
	CONFEDERAT Lytion Way, Ster	ION LI	IFE Herts St	GI 2NN	-do-Aes .	205.40	216.20		Property P1 Deposit F1	394.70 409.60		+ 0.80
	81438744940 Managed Fund]				Mixed P1 Index Stock P1	828.30 317.30		- 0.30
1	Equ ity R	250130	2635.50	+65.70	HALIFAX LUFT	s rid			LONDON & N		···	+ 0.30
	EAGLE STAR				PO Bez 285, Yo Life Funds	101 In 38,96			Winsiade Park.	Easter I	E)(5 ID)(4.	+ 7 K
	Montpellier Driv 01242 221311	re, Chel	içaka.	GL537LQ.	Poundation Balanced	. 37.25	38.91 39.00	- 0.07	-GO-ACC\$	1305.40		÷ 7.2
	Life Funds Ut with Pits (586)			• 0.20	Opportunity Deposit	37.67 26.98	39.65 28.40	+ 000	Property Cap I	261.00	•••	+ 0.10
'	Secure (2) ! Menaged (3) !	(/3.80 138.30	:::	• 0.10 - 0.80	Pension Funds Poundation S2	29.21 29.61	30.75	- 0.05	Fad Interest Cop: -do-Act : Equity Cap :	403.60 453.60	•••	- 0.90
Į	Equity Maye (3) 2 Adventurous (3) 2	125,60		- 0.87	Balanced 5.2 Opportunity \$1	20.04 20.18 25.45	30.72 25.79	- 0.17 - 0.15 - 0.04	-do-ACC1	85A60 259.20	= .	- 5.30 - 1.30
	Bristol & West LD 1 Equity Mgd 51	335.40	353.10 351.30	- 0.20 - 2.20	Deposit \$2	241)	77.ديم		-do-Acet -do-Acet	485.40 1 159.21		- 200
	Managed 51 Atheniutous 51 Managed (2)	332.70 258.40 238.30	272.00 278.30	- 2.10 - 0.40 - 1.40	1				-do-Acct Flexible Cap t	293.90 432.70		- 0.20 - 2.40
	Eagler Mid Uts Prosion Funds	445.30	461.50	- 130 dai	HAMBRO ASS	. Postes	n. Prest	a. Litter	-do-ACE I Montymaker Pd	816.60 614.10	:::	- 240 - 3.80 - 2.80
١	Unit With Pite (5) i Scaure (3) i	121,70 115,30		• 0.20 • 0.20	PR2 2PR, 07772	84000) 242.50	255.20	- 0.68	Crising Growth:	2275.70	•••	فلكا-
	Managed (2) (Equity Maned (2) (J40.30 J42.80		- 0.90	-do-Pens UK Equity	320.90 251.80	337,70 295,60	- 1.60	M&G Victoria Road.	Chelenia	ard, Resc	z C361
١	Adventurous (2) 1 Bristol & West (2)	136.50	:::	- 0.20	-60- Pens International	356.40 186.20	375.10 195.90	- 1,10	OCCUS 256266 Apper Bond Acc	697.80	732.60	- 1.70
ı					-dd- Pens Deposis	209.00 158.70	220.00 167.00	- 1.40 + 0.10	Amer Roc Bond Am Smir Cos Bd	823.80 343.60	360.90	-21,40 - 8.70
	FRIENDS' PRI	grpma. Or IDE:	Mare 21	PI 3SH	-do-Pens	195.70	206.00	- 0.30	Australisia Bd Commodity Bond	2000 (2122)	301.60 337.40 432.10	-13,90 - 1,00 + 0,50
	017 <u>22</u> 4]3366 Mariaged	451.40	475.20	- 3.00	Por H@ Samuel s	ee Abbe	Life Appl	CENTER	Deposit Sond Acc Equity Bond Acc European Bd Acc	2191.90	2301.60	-2030
	UK Equity Stewardsnip	659.50 529.90	694.30 557.80	- 5.80 - 1.30) .				Extra YM Bd Act Gfit Bood Act	198,90		-1270
1	Overseas Equity North American	402.00 256.20	423.20 269.70	- 2.60 - 1,50	IRISH LIFE A	SSURA	NCE In Short	St Affront	Gold Bond Art High Yield Bond	120.30	(25.40 499.70f	+ 240 -11,50
	Pacific Basin European	419.00	125.50 441.10	- 3.30 - 0.70 - 2.30	Heria ALI STF.	어(교) 481	877.20	+ 6.70	Index-Luk Gt 8d International 8d	25LJ0	263.70	- 0.20 - 2.50
	Property Pised interest Index Linked	213.49 307.40 205.70	224.70 323.30 216.60	6.40 - 0.10	Global Property Global Fixed Int	353770	371.90 691.70	+ L30 - 2.70	Japan Sond Acc Japan Sm Cos Ac	164.30	177.60	+ 0.80 - L10
	Cash P Life Assurance	230.30	242.50	1.60	Global Equity Global Cash	914.30	962.50 256.60	+ 8.60	Managed Bonds Prop Bund Acc	1196.65	1256.50 653.30	- 260 - 250
	Thou Invest	67.30	7778,6D [087.60						Rec Bond Acc S Rast Aga Bd Ac	1131.60 342.60	1240,90 261,10	-10.50 -14.90
	Deposit Property	303 (B)	4[3.60 624.00	*** ***	LEGAL & GEN		D. 100 1.0	osto i Nov	MGM ASSUR	ANCE	had, We	-thine
	American Autralian	728.10 675.10	766.90 710.60		2 Monseliore R	ond, He	t, Sees	x BNS ISE	BINIL ZIDY, 9190	20463i 341.90	19190	- 230
ļ	European Income Acc		12500.00	397	B Soc Load Init	134.90 234.40	147.90 215.20	+ 0.20	UK Equity Act	540.30 142.90	568.80 150.50	- 3.10 - 1.00
	-to-Dist formational Japan Smaller	647.90 435.00 288.40	691.50 457.60 282.50	•	Brit Opps tot	214.40 250.10	227.80 311.70	- 1.90	Special Sits Act North American	225.90 289.60	217.50	+ 1,10
	Nagapore & Mal Tokyo Fund		338.50 573.50		Cash (nitia)	173.40 329.20	182.60 346.60	- 0.40 + 0.10	N American Acc Pacific Basin	457.80 270.90	481.A0 265.20	+ 200 - 5.80
	UK Equity CCM Varied Mg	933,20	952.30		Equity Initial	101 1.70	1065.00 2021.20	- 7.00 - 8.40	Pacific Basin Acc Pixed Insurest	326.50	450.90 343.70	- 8.70 - 0.50
	To a series in a	110000	11014-	•••	Fixed Initial	403.50 765.80	124.80 BD: 20	- 140	Fixed Interest ACI Property	510.70 200.00	543,90 211,40	- 0.50
	GT GLOBAL F Albam Gate, 14th	Fig. 125	AGMT I	Mar rang	Index-Lukel GBL	152.10 240.30	160.20 250 E)	- 0.90	Property Acc Deposit	317.80 157.10	165,47	+ 0.30
,	ECZY SAS. 8171 7 GT Plan Far East GT Plan Wwide	TO 4567			ini infrial	361.00 661.00	717.30	- 2.70 - 3.30	Managed	349.00	367.40	+ 0.20 - 1.50
	GT Plan Wwide	ысл	64290	- 4.40	-do- arr	1193.10	JZ55.90	- 4.10 - 4.60	Managad Acc MERCHANT	508.20		- LW
	GAN LIFE & I	ENSIC	NS		Property Initial -65- ACC	238.80 453.30	251.40 477.20	1.50	St. Butholouses Bristol BS1 2ND	, vest s Heast	. Lewbu	Mead
	Gan Hoese, Ha CM202EW, 912	P 62626	9001 	- 1.20	1	٠.			BLIT 9266 346 Property	487,90	513.40	+ 0.30
	Portfolio Act -do-Let A UK Equity	889.00	935.90	- 3.30 ···	LINCOLN				UK Squity Gift Edged	586.10 792.40	616.90	- 4.70 - 2.60
ı	GREATURY Managed	249.20	љ ј.Ф	- 0.00 - 1.50	The Osays, 1014 Middy USS 112	05 Oxfo 0875 2	rd Road. 00 200	Unbeldge.	Interest Forma .	67.30	702.40	+ 0.60 - 2.50
					Equity Units Property Units	1330EG	\$505.00	+ 3.00	ind Equity North American	790.70	790.20 92.80	- 4.60 - 4.80
	GENERAL ACC	CIDEN	T IRR. 0	1904 <u>628982</u>		0275 m		-446	Per Extr Lati Corrency	363.90	383.00 289.20	- 9.80
Į	Munagal Unitisal Profit	300.00 171 90	00.41E 00.181	+ 0.30	2nd Equity Ace 2nd High Inc Ac 2nd Property Act 2nd Property Act 2nd Magel 2 Act	966.00 248.30	1018,00 313,90	- 7.00 + 0.20	ופא			
,	UK Equity Fixed Int	473.00 243.40	497.70 256.10	250	200 M DEG 3765				48 Gracechards 0171 623 4200			
	Index-Linked Cash Deposit	200.30	210.70	- 0 IQ	2nd Magd 4 Acc 2nd Deposit Acc	291.50 322.70	335-20	- LMG	Managed UK Egydy	1045.80	728,20 100,50	- 4.60
	Property International	307.30 230.40	218.10 242.50	• (L20	2nd Gill Acc	.383.10 1607.00	401.20	- 0.35	Oversees Equity	04640	680.60	
	American James	294.10 181.30	309,40 190,70	- 240 - 150	2nd Ind May Acc	249.70	26270 X2 20	- 0.70	Property	443.20 245.60	299.93	- (LZ)
	Japan Smile Cos European	35.60	195_30 305,70	- 0.93	204 Global Acc	256.40 196.00	269.80 205.20	-14.40	Fixed Interest Indused Gilt	256.00	521,10 202.00	- 020
	Pacific Fund Conv Life	194.70 184.20	330,10 198,10	- 490	Zind Earn Arc Zind Japan Acc	249.70 116.80	262.70 125.00	• 0.40 • 0.70	Deposit	•	261.50	
ļ	Formerly Provider Managed Grd	ni Migue 686.20	al 722.JU	- 4.20	2nd ini Cr Bd Act 2nd Cap Gds Acc	178.10 185.20	187.40	- 0.50 - 0.10	NAT WEST LI PO Ber 53s, 17 0117 940 4640	PL ASS LEGY QU	us LIII us Brist	BS9
-	Managed Intital Equity Ord	416.30	1259.30	7.30	ex-Lumeratan Property	635.40	666.80	• 0.40 • 2.80	0177 940 4040 Growth Mgd Pen	193,90	203.80	- 0.90
	Equity talk	244.20	257.10	- 4.80 - 0.20	Managed American	577.80 659.20			NORWICH UP	TION I	IFE IN	SURAN
	l-Linked Gilt Init Oseas Equity Ord	470.33	195,10	- 320	UK Equity Pd	732,40 130,96	157.00	- 136	SOCIETY - Ex PO Bex 149, No			
	Overs Equity Ink Property Onl	205.30 222.20	200.00 200.00	2.23	Index-Lkd High yield	1342,00	1413100	- 0.65 - 9.05	Manufed Floor	2167.40	225).50	- 2.20
	Property Int.	164 10	AT 100	- 0.50				+ 0.40 - 240	- Equity Fund Property Fd	742,70	\$472.80 802.40	+ 290
	Fixed Int Init Deposit Circl	53000	227 40 246.49	0.40 0.20	Perpetual Active Greath Ace City Edward	903.40	990.90	- 0.50 - 4.30	Poted in Rd Deposit Rund Ind Pund	124,50	822.80 425.80 355.70	+ 950
	Deposit (nitial	(43.25)	150.70	- 0.10	Gilt Edged			···				

Europeag 227.80 294.70 + 0.30 For East (95.60 442.70 - 7.60	OLD MUTUAL 2 Bardey Why, Hook, Hauts RGZ29XA 01256 76688	In Ce Ma
LONDON LIFE	Fixed Parties Act: 458.30 483.50 - 2.30 Fixed Intersect Act: 313.10 330.30 - 0.20	. 440
Spectrum, Bond Street, Related, BSI SAL BLT 984 7777	International Acr 328.50 346.60 - 2.50	Per
Equity	Managed Acc	sc
Property: 513.60 + 0.90	Money Act 174.90 184.50 + 0.20 Spec Min Ace 257.30 264.30 - 2.30	301 914
Mised 1 990.60 1.20	James Sensity Acc. \$7.60 87.70 + 1.20	Fle
International: 344.00 0.10	Pacific Acc 103.50 109.25 - 2.90	Gr
10000 DU(AT 244-30 + 0.50	Exemples 7. Acc 317.10 134.50 + 3.40	28
	PEARL ASSURANCE	GI GI
Mileni A	The Pearl Centre, Lynds Wood, Principarough PBZ6FY, 07739-470-470	
International A1 214.00 Equity P1 1295.70 5.10		No Pro
Placed Ent Pt 780.80 + 2.30	Prop Act (Gross) 378.60 378.60 + 0.50 Inv Equity 2042.50 2193.10 -27.60 Inv Managed 1279.60 1347.00 -11.00	UK
	Ret Managed 1507.60 1587.00 -17.10	۳-
Migred P1 828.30 1.35 Index Stock P1 317.36 0.80	}	sc
International ?: 423.40 + 0.30	PRUDENTIAL	6 : 953
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Easter ENS IDS. 81392 28346	Holbert Bars, London ECIN 2NH 01189 578334	Mi Bq
Winstade Park, Saster ElS IDS, 61392 223-66 inv Trust Cap: 674.50 + 3.10 -60-Act: 1303-60 + 7.20	Managed , 515.20 536.70 +14.70	Ipi Pro
Linhert cahe have in	PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS	FD:
Fad Interest Cop # 217.00 0.40	! Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP	For
Equity Cap : 451.60 3.20	Managed Fund 14640 1206.00 - 1.27	. 2
-do-Acci 85Ad0 5.30 Internal Cap: 259.20 1.30	Equity Pure 2643.00 2782.20 - 290 Ind Pund 518.30 261.40 + L60	770
-tn-Acct 485.40 200 GM Deposit Cup 1 159.20	Pland Interest 711.00 248.50 - 0.10 Property Pand 556.70 586.10 + 0.70	. Fan
Produce Cast 4322/0 240	Cash Pund 415.70 437.60 + 0.40 Pacific Baster 273.70 288.20 - 7.00	TOT FUE
Moneymaker Rd 1 614.00 2.00	N American Fd. 498.50 \$24.80 + 6.10 Euro Pund 497,10 523.30 + 5.30	Pau
Capital Growth \$ 2775.70IS.10	Balanced Fund 226.30 238.30 - 0.30 Strangic Fund 257.80 271.40 + 0.80	Sp Te
M & G Victoria Road. Chelumford, Ruser CMI IF6 0026756266		Ex
Amerikani 607.60 122.60 - 170 -	ROYAL PERITAGE LEFE ASSURANCE	En
ADDE AND BOOK ALLEN ADD - 270	Priceborough Business Park, Peterberough PEZ 4GG, 6723 390000	Sec
Australisis Ed 2000 304.65 -13.40 Commodity Bond 321.30 337.40 - 1.00 Deposit Sond Ast 411.40 432.10 • 0.50	Multi Grow (45) 1 1095.60 +15.90	Eq.
Deposit Bond Act 411.40 432.16 + 0.50 Equity Bond Act 2191.90 2301.60 - 20.10	Op Prop: 502.80 592.40 + L70	UK
European Bd Act 655.50 688.40 - 1.50 Extra Yid Bd Act 1198.90 1259.00 -12.70	Op Equity 1575.10 1658.00 -13.20 Op High Yield 766.40 806.70 - 1.90 Op Managed 1147.60 1208.00 - 7.10	No Pay
GIE BOOM ACT 570.20 598.80 - 0.30	Op Deposit	GK
Gilt Bond Acc 570.20 596.20 - 0.30 Gold Bond Acc 120.30 (26.40 + 2.40 High Yield Bond 475.80 499.201 - 11.80	Japan Smb	Pril Etr
International Bd 942.00 989.20 - 2.50	Rdrisk 595.70 627.10 +10.50 Global Bond 123.00 120.50 - 0.50	72
182617 3 to COS AC 172/0 181,50 - L10	Gold Shure 63.10 66.40 - 0.30	sc
Managed Bonds 1196.60 1256.50 - 2.60	UK Smir Cos 676.80 712.40 -14.00 Mangd Growth 663.20 698.10 -10.00	SC PC
Ret Bond Acc	1	Lips Lips
	ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE . New Hall Place. Liverpool L64 3HS	Lov
MGM. ASSURANCE MGM. House. Heene Read, Worthing BNII 2014. 91903 204631	CISI 239 300) Royal Life Light Linked	- Mits
UK Equity 341.90 391.90 - 2.30	Managed Panel 557.30 Sty.60 - 1.30	Pro
Special Sits : 142.90 50.50 - 1.00		_
Sparts City are 225.90 277.80 = 1.50]	F12
Special Sits Arr 225.90 237.00 = 1.50 North American 289.60 304.90 + 1.10	SAVE & PROSPER 5-72 Western Rand, Romford, Fance	200
Special Star Acc 25.50 277.80 = 1.50 North American 259.60 304.00 + 1.10 N American Acc 275.00 481.90 + 2.00 Pacific Resin 270.90 485.20 - 5.80	N-22 Western Rend, Romford, Essex RMI JLB. 07705 766966	Cu
Special Sits Acr 225.50 277.00 = 1.50 North American Acc 457.00 481.70 + 2.00 N American Acc 457.00 481.70 + 2.00 Pacific Basin Acc 471.00 480.70 = 2.70 Pacific Basin Acc 471.30 480.90 = 2.70 Proced Inserts 225.50 343.70 - 0.90	16-22 Western Rand, Romford, Essex RMI 34.8: 07705 766964 Bai Lay Fund 105-50 111.70 + 0.10 2.24 Depost Pand 22 454.70 459.60 + 0.60 7.20	SK
Special Sits Art 225.50 27.00 • 1.50 · North American Acc 457.00 81.00 • 2.00 · Pacific basin 27.00 185.00 • 5.00 · Pacific basin 27.00 185.00 • 5.00 · Pacific basin Acc 428.30 450.50 • 8.70 · Placed linewest Acc 510.70 513.70 • 0.50 · Flued linewest Acc 510.70 513.70 • 0.50 ·	18-22 Western Rand, Romford, Emer. RMT MLR. 07708 76966 Bal Inv Fund. 105-50 111.70 + 0.10 2.34 Depost Fund. (2) 45-70 45-80 - 0.40 7.20 Gill Fund. 671.20 769.10 - 0.00 7.30 Global Equity Pd. 29-80 3 11.70 - 0.20	SK Sk Sk Sk
Special Sits Art 225.50 27.00 • 1.50 · North American Acc 457.00 81.00 • 2.00 · Pacific basin 27.00 185.00 • 5.00 · Pacific basin 27.00 185.00 • 5.00 · Pacific basin Acc 428.30 450.50 • 8.70 · Placed linewest Acc 510.70 513.70 • 0.50 · Flued linewest Acc 510.70 513.70 • 0.50 ·	18-22 Western Rand, Romford, Emex RMI IAB, 07108 766966 Ballow Final 105-50 111,70 + 0.10 2.34 Deposit Fund 23 434.70 459.60 - 0.60 7.20 Citi Fund 671.20 709,10 - 0.60 7.33	SIK Sign Sign Sign Sign Sign Sign Sign Sign
Special Sits Art 225.50 27.80 - 1.50 North American Acc 457.80 481.70 + 2.00 N American Acc 457.80 481.70 + 2.00 Pacific basin 270.90 185.30 - 5.80 Priced Interest 28.50 49.50 - 8.70 Fixed Interest 28.50 49.50 - 0.50 Fixed Interest Acc 510.70 543.70 - 0.50 Fixed Interest Acc 510.70 543.70 - 0.50 Property 200.80 211.40 Property Acc 317.80 314.80 - 0.31 Deposit Acc 346.80 261.70 + 0.70 Deposit Acc 346.80 261.70 + 0.70 Managed 340.00 357.40 - 1.50	18-72 Westers Rand, Romfined, Emer. RMI JAR, 6/1709 746980 Rai INV Frand. 105.90 111.70 + 0.10 2.34 Deposit Frand. 02 434.70 459.80 - 0.40 7.20 Oll Frand. 6/71.20 749.10 - 0.40 7.30 Global Sequity Pd. 28-83 31.70 - 0.40 Framparty Frand. (46) 137.30 145.30 + 1.50 6.64 SCOTTISTI AMOCABLE	SK Ska Ska Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta St
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WEEKEND

Waiver of premium is essential for life assurance

From Dr Philip R. Thomas

SALIMAN MORES

ON 0500 822

Sir, The anti-consumer nature of Virgin's life assurance policies was highlighted by Gordon Maw's curt dismissal of waiver of premium as one of the bells and whistles added to such policies (Marks & Spencer adds the bells and whis-

tles, February 21). Waiver of premium is neither a bell nor a whistle but an essential option offered with any worthwhile life assurance policy.

The option allows a person who is too ill to work to have the premiums paid by the life company for the duration of the illness or until the policy expires and does not interfere with their right to convert to another policy without evi-dence of health where such an option exists.

In terms of rates offered in Hazel Spinks's example, Scottish Widows is cheaper than any of the companies quoted and almost £1 a month cheaper than Virgin.

Therefore, over the 25-year period referred to Virgin would gain in excess of £250 in extra premiums. This amount would double when the commission, which Scottish Widows pays but Virgin does not, is taken into account.

Yours faithfully, PHILIP THOMAS, Thomas Financial Planning, 439 Clock Face Road. St Helens. Merseyside, WA9 4QL

Conventional wisdom seems crazy

From Mr Peter Kellow Sir. We are constantly being advised in the columns of Weekend Money that we must invest heavily in personal

But what about the downside to investing in pensions, as opposed to another form of investment, as follows?

1) You do not avoid tax on contributions. You simply delay it, for you will pay tax on the pension income. The accumulation of the fund may have been tax-free in the past, but: 2) After the abolition of advance corporation tax, money in a pension pays tax twice (unlike other investments), once on yearly dividend payments and again on cashing

3) You disinherit your loved ones, as most of the pension fund has to buy an annuity, which also means: Because you are locked in to annuities for your pension, you will be stuck with annuities as an investment during

your retirement: These are producing lower and lower returns already and

in the low-interest world of comeback if they do. You economic and monetary union could be catastrophic. 5) Your money is locked up in the pension fund should you need to resolve a problem or develop an opportunity.

The double-breasted

less-easily-spotted

CUCULUS ENSNARUS

cannot withdraw and place your money elsewhere. Why does the conventional wisdom seem so crazy to me? Could you explain? PETER KELLOW, 34 Avenue Leon Blum,

31500 Toulouse

State pension fears are justified

under consideration.

were avoided in this way, the

billion, making the total haul

Treasury would save

6) Exorbitant pension fund

management and set-up fees.

Many funds underperform and there is absolutely no

From Mr G.E. Morris Sir. Your correspondent Mr J Batstone (State pension for

those near retirement, Weekend Money Letters, February 21) who expressed his worry that the state pension may be means-tested, has good grounds for concern_ The Chancellor has already

raised the tax on private pension funds via advance corporation tax to the tune of £5.2 billion (equivalent to 2½ p on the basic rate of tax) and

from pensioners around £8 removed tax relief on private billion - equivalent to 4p on health insurance for the the basic rate of tax but Means-testing of free pre-scriptions for the elderly is without the associated hassle

of doing that.
Although Mr Blair has said With that background, who that the state pension is secure in his hands, I would feel would be surprised if the "affluent" pensioners lost their happier were it in mine. Yours sincerely, state pension to means-G. MORRIS, If 10 per cent of payments 32 Church Street,

Romsey,



On Tuesday the Halifax announced a 15 per cent increase in profits to £1.65 billion. Despite the increase, the Halifax shares fell 25p to 950p. The former building society also said it would buy back El billion of its shares over the next year, but did not give any price or strategy details. Analysts were disappointed that a more acquisi-tive plan for dealing with its £4 billion of surplus cash had not been put forward.

THE performance of UK pension funds lagged behind

the stock market last year because managers failed to pick the right equities, according to a survey by the WM Company. UK equity holdings in pension funds

produced an average return of 22.6 per cent in 1997, a full percentage point behind the FTSE All-share index, which grew by 23.6 per cent over the same period.

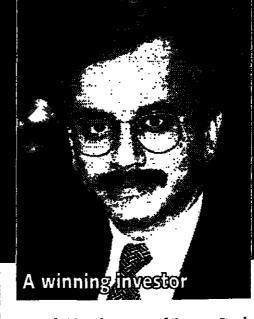
A £525,000 fine was imposed

on Britannic Assurance by the Personal Investment Authority on Tuesday for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling. This is the fourth fine meted out by the PIA over the pensions review in as many months. Britannic must also pay £125,000 costs.

ing to recover hundreds of then they may be forced to millions of pounds in tax repay any tax credits.

THE Inland Revenue is seek-

credits paid out to pension funds prior to the closure of a tax avoidance loophole in 1996. Officials from the Revenue's compliance department have asked pension funds to provide details of any holdings related to "windfall" gains in connection with buybacks and special dividends between September I, 1994, and October 8, 1996. If pension fund managers are found to have invested undue amounts of money in a buyback or special dividend.



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The Fund is an Authorised Unit Trust and fully PEPable, designed to make Jayesh Manek's investment skills available directly to all investors. The Fund targets outstanding growth opportunities principally through investment in UK equities. It is intended that the Fund will not invest in unquoted companies.



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The Manager is Manek Investment Management Limited. Its Chairman is Stanislas Yassukovich CBE, a former Deputy Chairman of the London Stock Exchange and currently Chairman of EASDAQ. The Hon Crispin Money-Coutts is a non-executive director. The Royal Bank of Scotland pic are the Trustees of the Fund.

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Analysts are cool about SocGen's new unit trust, says Jill Insley

Horlick factor fails to impress (for once)

Setting up a new com-pany with Nicola. Horlick at its helm must be a marketing man's dream. Ms Horlick has generated enough free publicity over the past year to launch 100 new companies, let alone one.

Cynics may suggest it is the high profile Ms Horlick gained during her acrimonious departure from Morgan Grenfell that has encouraged Société Générale, the international bank, to appoint her a joint managing director of its new fund management arm, SocGen Asset Management. But the company itself emphasises the importance of teamwork, and, says that its first product designated for the public will not actually be

managed by Ms Horlick. The SocGen UK Growth mit trust will be managed by Peter Seabrook, previously the UK chief investment of ficer for Flemings. Mr Seabrook aims to outperform the UK All Share Index by 3 per cent to 4 per cent a year by bringing long-term, institutional-style investment techniques to retail products. He will concentrate on

growth shares in the FTSR 350. This index, which covers the top 350 companies in the UK, rose by 84 per cent last year. Stock buying and selling will be limited, which will reduce dealing costs.

Rather turnsually, the fund's portfolio will be limited to about 40 to 45 stocks: most unit trust portfolios carry 100 stocks or more.

If he succeeds in beating the FTSE All Share by 3 per cent, it will position the fund in the top 25 per cent of UK growth funds in the immediate future, and, over a longer term, in the top 10 per cent. Graham Hooper of Chase

de Vere, the Bath independent financial adviser, says a strategy of limited but cons out performance of an index is similar to that adopted by Mercury a few years ago. And it has certainly worked for Mercury," he says. Mr Seabrook says he will pay particular attention to

several areas of the companies. They are: the strength management, cashflow after capital expenditure and the payment of dividends; the



Strong: Nicola Horlick leads team with a fine pedigree

quality of accounting; factors which affect the price attained by services or products produced by the company; and the company's strength in its own industry.

A trial portfolio gathered before last Monday's launch. included familiar names such as Legal & General, Shell, Railtrack, Abbey National, Asda and Zeneca. He says there is nothing new about his approach to growth invest-ment, but adds: "There is still plenty of opportunity to make

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SocGen UK Growth trust also

offers a regular savings plan, of £50 or more a month. The charge will be an initial fee of 5.25 per cent of the amount invested and an annual fee of 15 per cent Investors who buy into the trust before March 17 will receive a 2 per cent discount in

visers are not particularly impressed with the charges. which are standard for many unit trusts, and verging on the expensive for a fund with no track record. Nor are they familiar with the work of the Seabrook, which the parties of the seabrook, which the parties of the seabrook, which the seabrook of the seabrook, which the seabrook of the seabrook, which the seabrook of the seabrook of the seabrook. worked on the institution side of fund management.

Nevertheless, they are impressed by the potential of-

Ms Horlick, but John Richards, who was formerly with Mercury as its joint manag-ing director, and John lons who comes from Prolific as the head of retail.

Amanda Davidson of Holden Mechan a London independent financial adviser. says: "The team has a good pedigree, and we feel generalfavourable about the new fund. We think that it should do well for a couple of years. Its size, and the fact the folio from scratch to suit today's investment conditions. makes it easier to manage. He won't be hampered by poor performing shares already in the portfolio."

This is not enough to convince Ms Davidson and other independent financial advisers to recommend the new unit trust. The consensus is that the investment team is fine, but the lack of a track record is a problem.

Ms Davidson says: probably won't be giving it a lot of support because there are a lot of established funds out there with good performances, so why go for one

ouglas Gardener, of the Leeds independent financial adviser Thomson Financial Planning. agrees. He says: "I'm struggling to see anything different about this fund that is not already on offer elsewhere."

March is a key investment period for many investors who want to make the most of 🏼 🗣 their Pep allowances before the end of the tax year. But Mr Gardener questions whether this is the best time to be investing in the UK stock

The stock market has been hitting new highs for some time now. I would feel more comfortable about this launch if they offered a drip-feed option, allowing investors to put a lump sum towards a Pep which is then gradually invested in the marker every Control to Says.

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Individual Savings Account will be introduced. A transformal period will apply until Sch Occober 1999.

* Performance is calculated for the period from 31st May 1995 to 31st Occober 1975. The current performance figure for the period 31st May 199 58.89%. UK 100 Companies Fond performance taless account of all charges and the difference in price at which you buy and sell makes with incorperformance of a large selection of fisses translation for the performance of a large selection of fisses a which performance of a large selection of fisses translation from which period excluding Tiesas accounts for which because schemes are applicable. The performance of a large selection of fisses translation for the which period on the not return from the Hallier Solid Gold 30 Day notice account. (ministers benefits and february 1996.

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Are trackers about to run out of steam?



hindsight, the launch of Richard Branson's financial services division three years ago could not have been better timed. Virgin Direct entered the Pep market with a fund that tracked the index just as the UK stock

market began a period of strong growth. Virgin has also taken a very aggressive stance against the fund management industry to gain market share. Among its many targets has been Perpetual, which has one of the best records in the industry. Roger Cornick, Perpetual sales director, likened Virgin's index-tracking Pep to a Skoda at the launch, while claiming that his company's Peps were more like an Aston Martin. Three years on, Rowan Gormley. Virgin Direct's managing director,

points out that his company's Pep has outperformed all of Perpetual's Peps since launch. Mr Gormley said: "The Virgin Growth Pep not only boasts cheaper run-ning costs than Perpetual's funds but also

However, in the three years since the launch of Virgin's Pep, other managers have entered the index-tracking market, including Direct Line, Legal & General and M&G, the lauter company struggling under a weight of criticism concerning the performance of its managed funds.

BESt Investment, which analyses the performance of Peps, believes Virgin Peps are no longer a good buy. Jason Hollands, of BESt Investment, said: "With tracking funds, the main criteria are cost and



whether they track the index. Virgin has a perfectly reasonable Pep, but it no longer has the lowest cost base. It is probably not the right time in any case to buy an indextracker. The market cannot go on upwards. Trackers are last year's story."

CAROLINE MERRELL

f you are unimpressed by the off-the-shelf man-aged Peps and want more direct involvement in stock selection, a self-select Pep which allows you to use your £6.000 general Pep allowance could be for you.

In other words, if you believe you can outperform the professional fund managers, you can take control by the self-select option. The manager running the fund buys and sells specific shares, bonds or unit and investment trusts, on your instructions. Self-select Peps are offered by stockbrokers and the stockbroking arms of the major banks, such as Lloyds and

Barclays. These firms act as mass-marketed general Pep. the Pep manager - setting up the fund and reclaiming any tax due, but, relying on your decisions to buy or sell specific holdings that qualify for

Self-select plans are often more expensive than the so you need to be confident your gains will exceed the two sets of charges you will face. Every time you decide to

change the composition of your fund, you must pay dealing charges, just as you would if you were buying or selling on the stock market. Both Lloyds and Barclays charge 1.5 per cent of the value minimums of £18.50 and £15

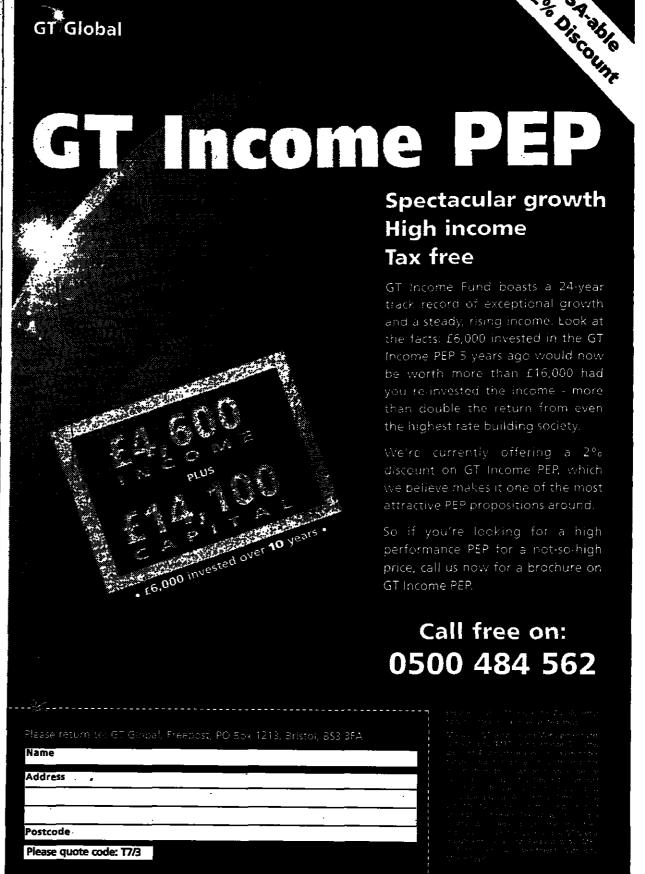
On top of dealing charges, which will obviously grow in line with the number of changes you make to your portfolio, there are annual management fees to pay as well. Lloyds charges 0.75 per

cent of the fund's value, with a minimum of £45 and a maximum of £195, while Barclays is even more expensive at 1 per cent, subject to minimum and maximum fees of £25 and

If you are not putting the full £6,000 annual limit into a Pep and want something less expensive, Share Centre offers a low-cost Bonanza General self-select scheme with dealing fees of I per cent and with a minimum of just £2.50 for purchases and £7.50 for sales, provided the shares that are traded are in the FTSE 100

A comprehensive guide to Peps containing details of more than 1,000 schemes has been published by Chase de Vere Investments and is currently available at a special price of £4.95, with the proceeds going to the NSPCC. Or the normal price is £12.95. which is refunded if you buy a Pep through Chase de Vere Investments. Telephone: 0800-526 092

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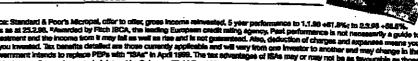


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Graham Searjeant urges caution over the Tokyo market

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The ten-year policy that didn't even pay for a birthday card



DTI targets holiday insurance

Marianne Curphey says travel firms make huge profits from insurance

ravel insurance premiums could drop dramatically if the Government opened up the market to competition. was claimed this week. Ministers were urged to ban travel agents from compulsory insurance to holiday discounts for

A ruling on the issue is expected within weeks, but Direct Line, the telephone insurer, has expressed concern that the reforms may not go far enough

The Department of Trade and Industry has been looking at the links between insurance and package holi-day discounts. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is known to dislike the practice and is expected to outlaw it when she makes her ruling this month. Some travel agents charge up to 40 per cent commission on the policies they sell and most regard insurance as a very lucrative part of their business.

Direct Line, which has previously challenged the premiums and commission charged on motor and household policies, says this would not go far enough and has called on the Government to force more competition into the travel insurance

Graham Ross, head of Direct Line's household and travel insur-

ance division, said travel companies

were now looking at offering "free" insurance to customers, but this was nothing more than a "sham". He said: "Travel insurance has a real cost which the consumer inevitably has to bear at some stage. What actually happens is the cost of the insurance policy is built into the overall cost of the holiday. In 1996,

the big four travel agents between them made a profit of £130 million on travel insurance sales - over six times their overall operating profit. The idea that they can now genuinely offer this insurance free of charge is

therefore highly questionable."

The DTI is currently mulling over the responses from the travel industry after an investigation into the issue last year. However, this week a report by Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, claimed that the insurance available from travel agencies can be more than 70 per cent higher than through direct insurers.

Among the Best Buys recommended by Which? are Churchill Insurance and Family Care (see below). Notably absent are Lunn Poly (the travel agency owned by Thomson); Thomas Cook, Going Places (owned by Airtours) and First Choice. Which? found that for a family of four travelling to the US for three eeks, the cheapest deal from Churchill cost £66 and the most expensive, Thomson, Thomas Cook and Lunn Poly, cost £235, £246 and £248

respectively. Mr Ross said: "Of course we have a vested interest in opening up the travel insurance market but we do believe that many of the policies currently available in travel agencies do not offer good value for money."

e added: "Several common practices discourage customers from exercising their choice. When you are arranging your holiday, the travel agent will often refuse to make the final booking for you unless you have insurance. When you have only just finalised the dates, it would have been impossible to set up a policy with a direct insurer in advance." Travel agents also often bundle insurance in with the overall price of

the holiday package.

Mr Ross said: "Although there is evidence to suggest that the market has begun to change over the past.

two years, a recent report estimated that in 1996, about £310 million was insurance sales."

Which? magazine looked at more than 150 travel policies and found that tour operators' and travel agents' policies charged adults at least twice as much as the best value policies.

Even when the different rates of insurance premium tax (IPI) were factored in, the policies available through travel agencies looked overpriced. IPI is levied at 17.5 per cent on olicies bought from travel agencies and tour operators and at just 4 per cent on direct insurers, although insurers believe the latter rate could be increased to as much as 10 per cent in the Budget on March 17.

However, Which? said: "Even if IPT on Churchill's policy was at the full rate, this would add just 69 to the cost." Which? also points out that travel policies only usually give indemnity cover, and a deduction is made from any claim to take account of wear and tear, nor do the majority cover connecting flights.

Both Which? and Direct Line have expressed concern that staff in travel agents may not always know about

the small print of insurance policies.

Which? recommends that when arranging a policy you ensure that you have cover for lost, stolen or damaged possessions up to a value of £1,500; cancellation and curtailment as standard; £1 million worth of

medical expenses and El million public liability or E2 million if travelling to the United States.

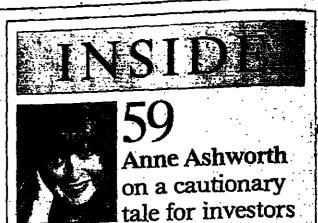
Churchill, which sells policies only over the telephone, said it aimed to offer good value "but not necessarily to be the cheapest if that meant compromising on the product that we

Kay Gorman, from Churchill, said: People should shop around and consider buying an annual policy. Many couples and families these days have more than one trip abroad and an annual policy could be more cost-effective."

Lunn Poly said it was disappointed by the recommendations that the link between discounts and insurance should be banned.

Peter Povey, the company's mar-keting director, said: "This link has been a major stimulus to price competition in the travel industry.

The vast majority of Lunn Poly customers do not pay for their insurance as we offer it to them free of charge. We have been making them this offer for more than two years."



TAXATION

How the Budget could change your will



PENSIONS



What's the pension story?

INVESTMENT

* Hit or miss? The new Nicola Horlick fund



WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth



Holiday insurance is vital if you engage in adventurous sports but no one likes having to pay too much

He and the City well-comed the decision Lenders push for by the Bank of England on Thursday to leave the cost of borrowing unchanged by keeping interest rates at 7.25

The news pleased the City, where share prices had been dropping in anticipation of a rates rise, and it was also good news for homeowners, who otherwise would have had to face the sixth interest rate rise since the general election last

Nevertheless, economists believe there will be further rate rises over the next two years. They expect rates to peak at around 7.75 per cent sometime this summer. Kieren Barr, who is UK

economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said the Bank of England, which sets the base rates, is now adopting a "wait and see" policy.
"I am not anticipating rates

to come down sharply next year, but expect to see them end 1999 at around 7.25 per

As a result of the uncertain-

longer-term fixes

about the direction of interest rates, growing numbers of homebuyers are now choosing to take out fixed-rate mortgages, and, more and more lenders are wooing them with highly attractive deals for what they call long-

term fixes.

Among the best offers cur-rently available for long-term fixes, according to the money information service Moneyfacts, is Bradford & Bingley's 6.59 per cent mortgage fixed

Newcastle Building Society has a 6.75 per cent loan available until May 2005. Clydesdale Bank also has a nia which sells through brocial advisers.

The deal has been developed for Britannia by Inde-pendent Mortgage Collection (IMC), a subsidiary of Private Label which was recently demerged from John Charcol

However, Patrick Bunton,

competitive interest rates in vears six and seven would have to be very much higher than for the first five years."

6.99 per cent mortgage fixed for ten years. Each of these deals carries an arrangement fee, but none allows you to borrow 100 per cent of the property's value. While there is a mass of two to five-year fixed mortgages,

few lenders compete in the Mr Barr says 60 per cent of five to ten years range. However, one company, Britannia current new mortgages are fixed rates, aithough most of Building Society, is introduc-Britain's homeowners, ing a new 72-year fixed rate, around 80 per cent, are still because research has shown firmly wedded to variable that seven years is the average time people stay in their home

until November 2003.

mortgage brokers.

of London & Country Mortgages, said first-time buyers in particular do not feel comfortable with more than a fiveyear fixed-term mortgage, and most commentators believed that long-term interest rates were now on a downward

Nor is IMCs offer a market-leader. Mr Bunton said: "Principality Building Society currently has a five-year fixed rate at 6.24 per cent which means that over that period the loan is 312 per cent cheaper than the IMC deal.

"For the IMC deal to be

MARIANNE CURPHEY

The mortgage is available from Verso, the part of Britan-Northern says The Times has a point

n an attempt to counter criticism from irate savers, Northern Rock L has this week pledged that each time it launches a new account or changes its rates, it will contact every customer. They will be informed of the rates payable on every account.

Last week The Times highlighted Northern Rock's unfortunate habit of introducing new accounts, with attractive rates, while allowing the rates on previous best buys to drop to uncompetitive We promised that we would keep a

check on the rate offered on Save Direct Instant, the Northern Rock's latest account, to ensure that it did not follow the path to obscurity taken by so many of its predecessors. Three days later, the bank conceded we had a "good point" and changed its procedures. However, the news of the launch next

week of Save Direct Instant had already roused the ire of Northern Rock investors, particularly those in its Select 90 account who must give 90 days' notice if they wish to transfer to the new savings

For those with larger balances, the switch makes sense: Investors in Select 90 earn 8 per cent on an investment of £50,000 but they will receive 8.10 per cent in Save Direct Instant, with the valuable added extra of instant access. Some pointed out that the Northern Rock had only recently been promoting Select 90 which pays from 7.90-8.15 per cent on a minimum balance of £10,000.



before moving.
Britannia is launching its

712-year mortgage today, at

6.99 per cent for buyers with a

deposit (APR 7.3 per cent). For

buyers who want to borrow 100 per cent of the value of the

property, the rate is set at 7.49

per cent, to July 1, 2005.

Switched on: Brian Tibbles has changed his account six times at Northern Rock

Brian Tibbles, a retired teacher from Roade, Northampton, has already given notice that he wishes to transfer to the new account. He will be entitled to move

his money in June. A Northern Rock customer for six years, he has transferred accounts six times in an attempt to keep pace with the ever-changing range of accounts at the

The Northern Rock has no obsolete

accounts. But, with the addition of Save Direct Instant, it now has 16 different

Mr Tibbles deplores the Northern Rock's past practice of frequently issuing new accounts while allowing savers in other accounts to languish at lower rates. So he welcomes the bank's attempt to play fair with its customers.

ANNE ASHWORTH

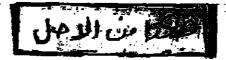
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Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any incomfrom them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount that you invested. The tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. The tax status of PEP's will be subject to statutory change after 5 April 1999. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored. *Source: based on industry returns of the number of new PEP accounts opened in 1997.



Self Service Service Service

Hugi R Riving Berlin Architecture 19 which the क्षारमान्यः स्टब्स But the realmudern Anton Line Depart hacing or a remodern ... aprilled. & 2. 1 the polarice:

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MARCHINE

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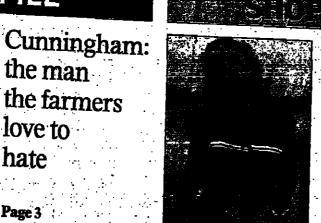
MONEY

56 lic)v)ay

the man the farmers

love to hate

PROFILE



in Lycra and lace

Healing hands: the saviour of our wounded wildlfe



High in the hills of unvisited Jamaica

THE

Prince who built a house of straw

The Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture is in disarray, key

players revenue to the same of has closed and now a mode: at its helm. Gavin Stamp explana

what its founder is partly to blame

he Prime of Waler's comboversial foray into architecture looks as if it is coming to a bloody end. February was a dismal month for the institute of Architecture, the alternative school and research establishment founded by the Prince in London six years ago. -

Not only was it proposing to change its name to the more nebulous Prince of Wales's School of Architecture and the Building Arts, but it was revealed that Richard Hodges, the director, Richard John, a previous director, Hugh Petter, course co-ordinator, and Giles Worsley, the director of a "think-tank" that had never met, had all

Worsley was also the editor of Perspectives on Architecture, the magazine associated with the Institute which, after only three years of life, was also closed by the governing council last month.

But the news that has attracted most publicity is that a "modernist" had been made head of the school. This is Professor Adrian Gale, who has recently retired from running the Plymouth School of Architecture and who, having once worked for Mies van der Rohe - the great modern architect who originally designed the "glass stump" Baron Palumbo tried to inflict on the City of

London — can be seen as belonging to the enemy camp in the polarised and puerile world of architectural politics. It may seem, therefore, as if everything the Prince stood for has been defeated by the ruthless forces of modernism. An alternative explanation, however, might be that Professor Gale was looking for a new posting and his wife, who is a judge, is a friend of Lady Browne-Wilkinson, the lawyer who now chairs the Institute's new council It looks, in fact, as if the Institute is in danger council. It looks, in fact, as if the Institute is in danger



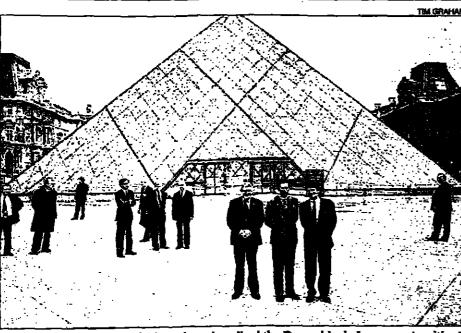
The Prince of Wales gives a royal stamp of approval in 1995 to the restoration of the Albert Memorial, the Victorian edifice opposite the Albert Hall in West London

eautiful.

For further information, call 0800 834865.

BALLY

TRAI GRAHAM



During a 1988 trip to Paris the Prince described the Pyramide de Louvre as 'exciting

Continued from page I of imploding through its own internal divisions rather than being crushed from outside.

But whatever the truth, it is clear that things are far from well in the two smart Regency houses next to Regent's Park where the Institute has been based since 1992.

The Prince entered the architectural dehate in 1984 with the "carbuncle" speech to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) at Hampton Court, and his Institute was intended to give practical expression to his unhappiness with the direction modern architecture had taken.

It was his "heartfelt hope", he said in his inaugural speech, "that students will be able to learn specific things largely forgotten today which will set the architecture of the future on a more realistic basis, less controlled by the images and fantasy as unfortunately the architecture of the last 50 years has often been. Instead, I hope it can be based on real principles and on factual knowledge about the nature of space, which unites objective knowledge with profound human feeling."

There was certainly a need for such a school. It is difficult for outsiders to understand quite how doctrinaire and remote many conventional schools of architecture were - and are. Most teachers and staff still think in terms of the architectural debates of the 1960s and worship Le Corbusier with undiminished devotion. At the same time, the role models for students tend to be those practitioners of "High Tech" design who enjoy international superstar status and acquire knighthoods and even peerages. Students who take a practical interest in the past and who perhaps aspire to designing modern Classical buildings are likely to have a hard time.

In contrast, the Prince hoped that students in his school would "appreciate that there are certain timeless values which we can learn from the past and apply to the future. I would like the students to learn that in order to be able to design with sensitivity and an appropriate sense of



Prince Charles presents his vision at the V&A in 1989



The Prince talks architecture in his television special

reverence for the natural survey and Classicists and full of roundings, they first need to learn humility and how to substudents studying the Clasmerge the inevitable egocentric tendencies that we all perience.'

The Institute, therefore, had something positive to offer, and in any sphere of life it is surely healthy for there to be an alternative way of thinking and doing.

However, such is the bitter hatred for the Prince of Wales in the old architectural establishment that few were prepared to see any merit in this venture. The Institute was dismissed as a sort of finishing school run by reactionaries

drawing, modelling and building What I do know is that the HARDWOOD FLOORS students who came on from the Institute to the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glaswith a difference... gow, where I teach history, were conspicuously good. Perhaps they would have flourished in any school, but they had a confidence, an independence and breadth of out-

sical Orders so that they could

become like Quinlan Terry,

the tweedy conservative archi-

eci wno nas a nice line in de

signing new Georgian man-

There certainly were Classi-

cists on the staff, but what was

impressive about the Insti-

tute's basic foundation course

was an openness to several ap-

proaches to the making of

architecture — Classical, Arts

and Crafts, or whatever — and

an interest in different atti-

tudes and cultures, combined

with a strong emphasis on

practical matters such as

This was never the case.

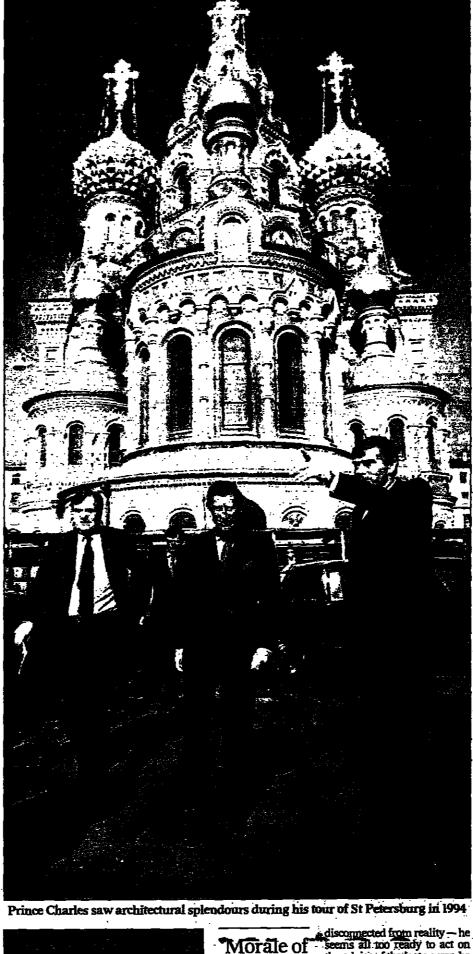
sions for the very rich.

look that were valuable and refreshing.
One of these students had gone to the Institute not knowing whether he wanted to be an architect or a sculptor - a positive confusion - and had been attracted by the objectives of the foundation course, particularly the emphasis on philosophy.

r e was not disappointed. Although he found much of the teaching "quite ideological", with modernism presented as an "evil" (rather than as the only way to salvation, as in most conventional schools), he was impressed by the wide variety of approaches on offer.

There was the pure gospel of Classicism preached by bornagain disciples such as Julian Bicknell, but there was also an interest in an "organic" architecture inspired by the weird anthropomorphic timber buildings of Imre Makovecz, architect of the dragon-like Hungarian Pavilion at the Seville Expo. Then there was the group therapy offered by the Californian guru Christopher Alexander, and the insights into Oriental mysticism and sacred geometry taught by Keith Crichlow, as well as the earthy, practical application of Arts and Crafts philosophy demonstrated by solid practitioners such as Dick

Reid, the sculptor and carver. That was at the beginning. however, and this spirit has been undermined by conflict between the several factions in the school and by cruel politics at management level. In its six years, the Institute has had





The magazine has been closed

four directors, which is surely When talking to people intoo many to inspire confidence. Indeed, there have been volved with the Institute, a consistent complaint emerges that it has not been allowed the so many changes of director and of direction that the mortime to settle down and to ale of students and staff has pursue its aims. Educational institutions need consistent dibeen sapped and it is difficult rection and periods of stabilto see how it can be revived. ity, and the Institute has been

denied both.

nd for this the indi-

vidual who gave his

royal name to the

school must surely

, be held responsible. Certainly

the institute could never have

been established without his

encouragement and his ability

to raise millions from the likes

of the Sultan of Brunei, but he

has failed to nurture his

creation. Instead - like many

The plush premises next to Regent's Park certainly created an aura of extravagance which the recent interest of the Charity Commissioners suggest is not illusory. Last year the original board of governors, chaired by Lord Morris of Castle Morris, was summarily dismissed and replaced by one dominated by lawyers and with no architects. It is this board that recently closed the graduate school and killed off Perspectives despite the ostensible commitment of the Prince.

students It would seem to be the and staff sycophants and careerists, and has been the pity is that the Prince of Wales has not listened to those who have the Institute's best sapped interests at heart, for it really and it is is - or was - doing something valuable. difficult Alan Powers, the Institute's

now to see correspondent of The Spectator, remains convinced that it how it offers what no other school can provide, but he sometimes can be despairs of attitudes both within and without. Inside the revived' Institute, the Classicists have been narrow and bigoted, adamantly refusing to accept that there may be several roads to

> and the RIBA has only confirmed his worst fears. "What the world won't understand," Powers says, "is that what the Institute is about is close to modernism — to me. the good modernism." That is, a modern architecture concerned with social purpose and good building. But, Powers says, the positive nature of the whole project has only really been aired in Perspectives - and that admirable

architectural salvation, while

the blinkered hostility of the

architectural establishment

the advice of the last person he

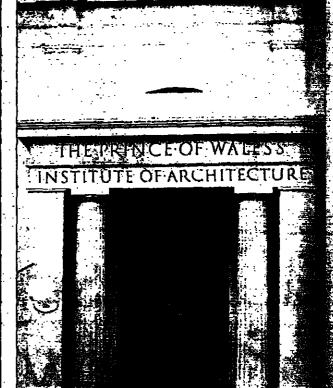
librarian and the architectural

has talked to -

After an uncertain start, Perspectives evolved into a magazine of broad, non-partiscope which took an

publication has now been

cilled off.



The Prince meets architecture with a human face

The Institute's plush premises next to Regent's Park

intelligent interest in all schools of current architecture. "Architecture is not a subject just for the specialist, the practitioner or the intellecthe first issue under the by-line of the Prince. "It is a subject for people, for all of us, because it is a subject which forms our lives, creates our environment and expresses our deepest feelings about the world in which we live. That is why I feel so strongly about the subject matter of this new

magazine." It seems to me that Perspectives fully lived up to those high hopes. Yet the Prince whose three white feathers appeared on its cover - seems to have acquiesced in its sad demise.

It has, however, been suggested that the Prince did not really care for the catholic policy pursued by Giles Worsley, the editor, for there can be no doubt that HRH knows what he likes, or dislikes. Indeed, the Prince of Wales's architectural judgments have always been suspect. The truth is that he said nothing novel or unusual in his Hampton Court speech. The orthodoxies of the Modern Movement in architecture - high-rise, pre-fabricated, reinforced concrete housing and the rest - had been under attack for the previous decade, and it might be argued that the Prince simply made matters worse by driving all the old modernists into an entrenched

Perhaps the "monstrous car-buncle" gibe about the chosen design for the National Gallery extension was appropriate, for it was a poor design public pronouncements seem little more than soundbites. To describe the new British Library, a deeply serious response to a civilised brief, as an academy for training secret police" was cheap and frivolous.

What does the Prince of Wales actually like? New proiects on his Duchy of Cornwall Estate in Kennington suggest that he goes for that easy-lookin Classicism, with lots of columns and pediments, associated with Quinlan Terry. There is no evidence that he can distinguish between good and bad traditional buildings any more than between image native and pedestrian modern.

for that is what matters. Pounous, residential developters. Poundbury, the ment near Dorchester masterminded by Leon Krier - one of the really serious architectural minds of our time — was meant to demonstrate the validity of traditional principles.

Yet the Prince has failed to. stop the scheme being com-promised, provoking its creator to retreat to the South of France in disgust.

Indeed, the casualty list resulting from the Prince's. involvement in architecture whether from his vacillation and lack of support or from simply being blinded by the royal presence — is now long. Politics within the Institute has always been vicious, even by the standards of academics. And now the Prince of Wales's court seems to want to dis-tance him from areas of controversy, and that means architecture.

After all, Lady Browne Wilkinson, the new chairman of the governors under whose leadership so many have te signed, is the lawyer who handled Camilla Parker Bowles's divorce. So the Prince of Wales's institute for Architecture seems likely to fall victim to the changed circumstances created by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

What is sad is that the worthy - and important aims of the Institute have been tarnished by all this frivolity: perhaps it would have been better if the Prince had never set it up if he was not prepared to see things through. Watching from a sale distance has given me an acute understand ing of what, say, the court of Louis XV must have been like. It is almost enough to make one a republican.



Redevelopment of London's Paternoster Square worried the Prince, who feared it would blight St Paul's Cathedral

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Joanna Pitman talks to Jack Cunningham, the feisty Agriculture Minister who is no friend to the farmers



I HEIC 2 HUL HIUCH mud on his wellies

'Not many

people from my

constituency

would buy

T-bone steaks.

They couldn't

afford them'

ack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, farmers' foe, son of a Labour trade union leader and product of a rugged proletarian upbringing steeped in the old Labour movement, is in full flow, dredging up his best muddy credentials: "I was brought up in the countryside. I grew up living next to a farm and I used to work on the farm in the summer holidays — for free — because I liked it. I like being out with the harvest ... I walk, I fish and I have farming friends - even beef farmers, you know. I'm a rural man at heart."

The son of the soil's reminiscences sound a little awkward. The trouble is that sincerity in politics is like sincerity in acting — you've got to know how to fake it. And Cunningham just looks and sounds a bit too metropolitan for this kind of manure-on-welly talk. He has only just recovered from a role as shadow spokesman for National Heritage, in a thespian cloak, trying to convince the public of his luvvy credentials and his sincere appreciation of opera, ballet and fine art.

What he really looks like is a career politician. It is 28 years since, at the age of 30, he won the Labour Whitehaven scat (it has been known as Copeland since 1983), a 400-square-mile constituency in west and south Cumbria comprising remote farming communi-tics, part of the Lake District national park and the Sellafield nuclear plant. Cunningham has held the seat ever

Today he wears an immaculate white starched shirt initialled JAC on the breast pocket (white thread on white for extra exclusivity). He has a conture silk tie and is possibly the last man in Britain to wear a snakeskin helt. The swept-back hair and the slight impression of take tan gives him a certain air of Ibiza-on-Thames. There is also a sense that he is entirely comfortable with Chris Smith's reported comment that he is one of the two most handsome members of the Cabinet (Tony Blair, of course, being

the other). Cunningham stayed away from the Countryside March last Sunday because he says it was organised for people interested in hunting and hounds. A fear of televised indignities) and being justled by farmers was probably his real reason. And, if so, his instincts were sound. Marchers of all sorts, the knights of the shires, the factory farmers, agricultural workers, even a hardy little band of Welsh falconers, were on the lookout for him. "He's made a stupid cock-up with the beef, said Alan Forbes, a beef and kimb farmer from west Wales. "He's

kicked farmers in the teeth. My income is down 40 per cent. And associated industries are suffering, too, because farmers aren't able to invest."

"He's an ignorant pig and he won't listen to our point of view," said Clifford Milton, from north Devon. "He's slammed a ban on beef on the bone and now there must be more farmers committing suicide than there are deaths from CJD. I was brought up on beef and full-cream milk. They

should leave us alone." Have we returned to the days when. like the late 1980s, it was deemed proper for the Government to shove its noses into the dietary and other habits of perfect strangers? Today we are told to stop smoking, stop hunting, curtail our enjoyment of beef, cut down on fatty foods, drink less when driving

and (if elderly) try to get through the winter without dying of hypothermia. If we were to stay indoors and stick rigorously to a diet of pasteurised muesli and raw celery juice we should all be fine.

Cunningham is emerging as a keen Cabinet favourite to blame for new Labour's Bossy Tendency. But in person he does not show the slightest sign of concern. I don't feel as

if I'm being blamed.
Not at all. I don't feel like a scapegoat
... and that T-bone steak gang ...
ugh." You get the feeling that he is not amused by namby-pamby chefs bemoaning the end of pungent beef bouillon, and the T-bone steak and

oxtail-eating classes.
"You wouldn't see many people from my constituency queueing up on a Friday for their T-bone steaks. They couldn't afford it. No, the Govern-ment's policy is to eliminate risk, to ensure that BSE-infected material does not get into the food chain. And we will continue to ban parts of the carcass that are identified as risky: the head, the spleen, the thymus . . . it will go on as long as the risk is there and there may be less and less of the carcass that we consider safe for the public to eat."

Cunningham had been sailing along just fine in his new ministerial post until he imposed that unfortunate beefon the bone ban last November. The suggestion is still widespread in political circles that he made the decision himself without consulting Blair, having heard the views of scientific experts. But he denies this, saying the decision was thoroughly considered

over several months. "In banning beef Labour lost power in 1979, he failed to on the bone we were signalling to Europe that we were being tough. We were saying: let us export our beef. It's safe now."

However, despite the safety mea-sures, the ban on British and Northern Irish beef still holds across the European Union: "I expect we will be taking a decision on that next month.

For all the beefy bravado, Cumningham clearly is concerned about the perceived stink hanging over his ministry. Last week he announced that £35 million required to introduce a cattle tracing system and £35 million to implement new controls at abattoirs would now be found by the Treasury rather than extracted from farmers' pockets. This policy U-turn seemed to owe less to any new-found desire to be

nice to country folk and rather more to political prudence in the face of 250,000 angry people marching through the capital's streets.

Agriculture has recently been both a high-profile position and an ugly job, but Cunningham, never guilty of hiding his light under a bushel, has embraced it wholeheartedly. He has sent teams of ministry people marching out into the country to talk

others. And he has subjected himself to regular torture, addressing farmers' conferences and warning them of his intention to support the reduction of farming subsidies. "I have been sent to take these people

on," he said when he took up the job. Today he says he is enjoying every minute of it". Brute force and bloody-mindedness

are part of his arsenal, and the farmers angry jeers evidently slip easily off a tough skin. His masochistic efforts are paying off. Blair has been heard to single him out as one of the top three performing ministers in the Cabinet, and he is considered a possible replacement for Mo Mowlam as Northern Ireland secretary, which would signal a real promotion.

However, Cunningham is 58 and knows his political future is limited. He has had a long and unique career with many ups and downs (he is one of Labour's longest-serving MPs). When Jim Callaghan became Prime Minister in Callaghan became Prime Minister in 1976, six years after Cunningham first won his seat, he was appointed a parliamentary undersecretary. When shine in a series of shadow posts, but spent the 1980s boosting his bank account with a number of lucrative corporate consultancies. In May last year, Blair considered Cunningham's rare ministerial experience invaluable for his new Cabinet.

Cunningham is not a character in the sense of being flamboyant, eccentric or a crank. He has become a parliamentary character by skill, persistence, the careful gathering of cro-nies and by dint of his long service. But while the perceived personalities of Peter Mandelson and Alastair Camp-bell tell us much about the spirit of the Blair age, Cunningham does not quite fit in. He was born in Newcastle-upon-Type and lived in the tied cottage of a grandfather who worked down the mines. His Catholic father was a trade union leader and his Methodist mother was a housewife. The young Cunninghams were well fed but nothing fancy, were taught to keep their nails clean and were introduced into the Church of

England. Cunningham went to Jarrow Grammar School and got a place at Durham University to read chemistry. He grew up in an era when young men Brylcreemed their hair and the excitment of the week was going to the pictures on a Saturday night. He met his wife, Maureen, at a church dance when he was 16 and "got together with her" two years later. They have three children: Catherine, 28, Alexandra, 26, and Jonathan, 24.

unningham may have effortlessly acquired a suave, urbane knowingness, and his manner and speech have lost most traces of his origins. But he has never been clubbable, he is not the sort to bother buttering people up. He is more the brutish, semi-house-trained old Labour heavy with a rough tongue. He can also be arrogant. At a recent Commons debate on the beef-on-thebone ban, he stayed away and fielded his deputy. Jeff Rooker, instead, but he was spotted in the Commons' smoking room. Perhaps he wanted to show contempt for the Tories, but this was not considered a clever move.

Most farmers understand that subsidies are going to be cut, whether it is Cunningham in charge or someone else. But they want the cuts to be made with an understanding of the practicalities of rural life. Subsidy busting done with arrogance in his city gent's suit is not likely to make Jack Boots" Cunningham the farmers' friend. But then again, I don't suppose he minds that too much.



A country boy: Jack

IN HIS OWN WORDS

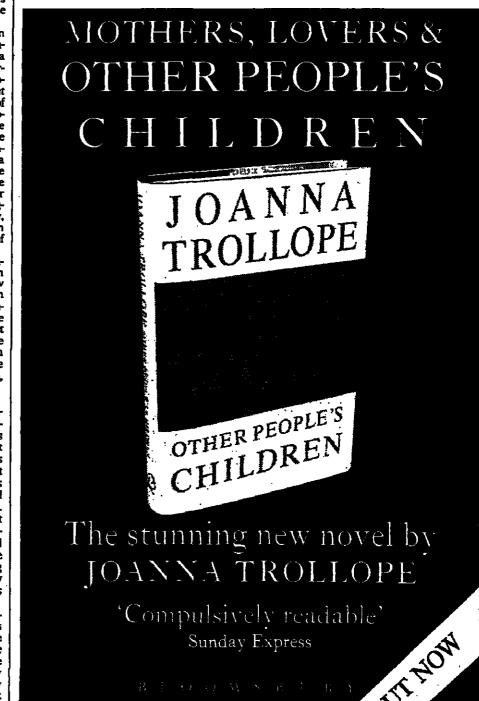
The idea that there is a cheque sitting in Brussels that ! can bring back to British farmers cost-free is simply not the case" December 1997

There is over-supply of beef throughout Europe, and a long-term decline in consumption of beef everywhere. The Government is convinced of the need for substantial restructuring of the industry" December 1997

"It [the CAP] infuriates farmers, it angers

environmentalists and it upsets consumers. You have got to be pretty stupid to go on spending that much money every year, and ending up infuriating everyone and pleasing no one" *January 1998*

"I understand that you [farmers] would like more money. So would many other sectors of the British economy. So would the health service. So would teachers" February 1988



Shipshape for model customer

Michael Cable meets Royal Opera baritone

Thomas Allen at a

frequent port of call

pera lovers who happen to catch sight of baritone Thomas Allen rummaging through a rubbish skip in the street need not be concerned. The Royal Opera star has not fallen on desperate times; he has merely started on a new model boat

Although he gets most of his materials for his models from Maritime Models of Greenwich -- just a belaying rope's throw from the Cutty Sark - many of his nonkit models, such as the miniature 1:250 scale replica of the northeast collier Vane Tempest that is his special pride and joy. are made almost entirely from odds and ends. This takes a great deal of imaginative improvisation - which is where the contents of rubbish skips can come in

"If you know what you're looking for. you can find all kinds of useful bits and pieces," he says, adding: "It's not the sort of thing Pavarotti would do and I suppose it could be a bit embarrassing if somebody recognised me. My wife gets very concerned and tells me I must stop

doing it."
A single hair from Mrs Allen's head forms the deck rail along one side of the Vane Tempest, and one from his step-daughter's head along the other. The hull was fashioned from a piece of scrapwood salvaged from a skip and the ventilators were formed by cutting the ends from pill capsules. The tiny oars in the lifeboats were carved from toothpicks.

Attention to detail is much admired at Maritime Models; shop assistant David Sambrook is an international judge for model-making competitions. The research that goes into making a model is very much part of the pleasure." says 53year-old Mr Allen, who buys books and plans from Maritime Models.

"You can learn a lot in the process. The Vane Tempest, for example, belonged to the Londonderrys, who owned a lot of the coalfields in Durham, around where I was brought up. She was one of the colliers that plied between the old coal port of Seaham, which was my home town, and London. She would come up the Thames as far as Battersea, which is

my

favourite

shop

why her funnel and masts had to be designed so that they could be lowered."

Mr Allen traces his interest in ships and boats back to the days when his father, who worked in the credit department of a Sunder-

land department store, would take him for walks up to a high vantage point in the town to look down on the Wear which, back there in the early Fifties, was still swarming with ships.

Tugboats, fishing boats, ships on

pontoons, ships in dry docks and ships on the stocks waiting to be launched — it was a wonderful sight," he recalls, adding: 'My grandfather worked in the shipyards and two other members of my family are marine engineers, so I feel that ships and the sea are very much in the

Model-making came easily to him; he has always been good with his hands. His first ambition was to be an eye surgeon. "I certainly didn't grow up always wanting to be an opera singer," he



David Sambrook of Maritime Models inspects a scaled-down HMS Bluebell made by opera singer Thomas Allen. "Ships and the sea are in my blood," he says

says. Even when he started singing in the church and choirs and it became clear that he was blessed with an exceptional voice, it wasn't seen as an obvious

career path. "There was no precedent where I came from," he explains. "Luckily, my physics master was also a professional singer and he ment, and I ended up winning a place at the Royal College of Music."

Renowned especially for his Don Giovanni, a role he has made his own since he first sang it at Glyndebourne 21 years ago, he has gone on to establish himself as one of the world's most soughtafter singers, but remains refreshingly untemperamental. "Most singers are very practical, down-to-earth people," he insists. The idea of the pampered prima donna is the stuff of old Viennese films and the myth of Maria Callas and

Caruso." He doesn't envy the attention-grabbing

tenors their monopoly of the spotlight.
"I'd rather be a dour, stable baritone than school a flighty tenor, having to worry about those high notes every night of the week," he grins.

However, he does get irritated by the idea that opera is elitist. There is no reason why everyone should not be able to enjoy and appreciate it," he says. "It is too expensive, but that's because it is not

properly funded."

Although he is booked up all summer till concerts and recipils amound the world, and is currently rehearsing Cost fan tutte for the Royal Opera, which opens on March 17, he would like to move into straight acting. "It's a desire that won't go away," he says. "I'm talking to various people.

tugboat here today that I think might be next on my model slipway."

■ Maritime Models. 7 Nelson Road Greenwich, London SE1091B (0181-858 5661). Open Mon to Sat 9.30am-6pm.

• Readers are offered two tickets for the price of one to see Thomas Allen in Cost fan tutte;



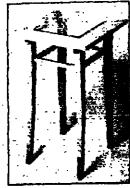
Based in Greenwich, the store is close to the dry dock where the Cutty Sark is kept

Joseph's latest store opens in King's Street. Manchester, this month. Housed in a Grade II listed building, with a sleek limestone floor, it promises the familiar cool Joseph ambience and the full complement of spring 1998 clothes. For details telephone 0171-590 6300.

Flanct Organic is a supermarket with the works from free-range meat to vitamins and organie beer, plus a puice har for that essential wheatgrass pick-me-up. Call for same-day central London home delivery (0171-221 7171).

Muji, the Japanese no-label chain, now has pure cosmeries to march its pure designs. Face Water and Face Milk are £2.95, and lotions, soops and shampoos smell of mandarin or citrus. Find Muji's higgest store at 187 Oxford Street, WI (0171-323 220S).

Touch Design's mailorder catalogue is full of hand-made homewares.



Touch Design table

For a catalogue call 01725 552888 or visit the shop at 51 High Street, 6 Penny Handley, Salisbury.

Borough Market, home to southeast London's fruit and veg wholesale market, is set to expand into quality food retailing. Neal's Yard Dairy is already there, with a brilliant selection of cheeses from the British Isles, at 6 Park Street, London SE1 (0171-403 9544 or 0171-107 1800 for mail order).

■ UPDATE: Liberty bold floral fabrics have a brilliant. blonde-wood showroom of their own. Find it in the basement of the Osborne & Little shop, 304 King's Road, SW3 (0171fashion cognoscenti to APC. French designer Jean Toutoui's new shop at 40 Ledbury Road, WII (0171-229 4933).

JUDITH WILSON

GADGETS

THE WORST thing about mobile telephones is that they ring. Unless you are a born extrovert, it can be a cringe-making moment when you are in public. Due out at the end of this month is the first of a new range of essential accessories that could put an end to such untimely embar-rassments. This is a small light powered by a tiny battery that flashes whenever a call is made to a mobile phone in its vicinity. Available initially as a

small key-fob made of clear blue plastic, the phone light will also



Mobile phone key-ring

appear on the top of pens later in the year. Armed with one of these lights. you can leave the ringer off your mobile, or leave your mobile in your bag, without fear of missing that important call. Of course, you have to keep half an eye on the light instead, but it is easy enough to spot when it does go off.

The next generation of the gadget could be even smarter - small vibrating key-fobs that can be slipped into a pocket.

TIM WAPSHOTT Mobile Phone Key-ring, £9.95. available shortly from The Gadget Shop (01482 860860),

It's time to get stuffed

Tar from merely offering protection from cold seats, cushions have become a soft-sell interior design tool. "Buying cushions is like buying a new lipstick," says Caroline Burstein-Collis, a director from the designer clothes shop Browns. "They can create a whole new look without the need for a full facelift."

In her latest venture, a new homewares section called Browns Living, she stocks luxury cushions for discerning shoppers who don't mind spending that little bit extra for style. Self-confessed comfort junkie Donna

Karan admits that her penchant for cushions has helped to give her home the functional and nurturing feeling she loves. "Cashmere cushions are my favourite," she says.

CUSHIONS "They oeze sensuality and are so com-

fortable to lie on." Journalist A.A. Gill spends many of

his working hours on his fuchsia pink velvet sofa at home, surrounded by four

Chairman Mao cushions (see below). "If you leave them long enough it's like sitting in a gurning competition," he muses. "The feathers settle and the faces wrinkle into frowns and scowls."

For those who are interested in keeping the right energy flowing through their home, Lama Arto, managing director of the Feng Shui Association, advises going for vibrant cushion col-ours. "Bland tones of white, cream, dark mahogany and black can create a stagnant atmosphere," he says.

Mark Winstanley, head of home furnishings design at Laura Ashley, is predicting heather and sky blue hues for bedroom cushions this summer, followed by indigo blue next winter.

MARY ANN PERCY

ABOVE: The "Space

XV* 38cm x 38cm

silver Lycra cushion,

designed by Claire

O'Shea, is available

(0171-727 6016). For

call 0171-221 0100

ø

for £45 from

mmos etisving

David Champion

LEFT: Red and yellow Thal cushion. £59.95, from Neal Street East (0171-240 0135) rolls out into a 125cm long mat



ABOVE: From Mexico, the "Jesus and Mary" 40cm x

52cm brushed-cotton cushions, £28 each, are the

red, blue and yellow from World (0171-379 5588)

latest in designer kitsch. Both designs are striking is

RIGHT: Radiant in orange velvet, the

(0171-221 0100)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DES JENSON

70cm x 70cm "Lotus cushion", £70,

is a luxuriously soft number to meditiate on. From Tamar Zaig,

> LEFT: The buckwheat filling inside these Indian silk cushlons. 25cm x 35cm or 30cm x 40cm, from Doss, is said to aid restful sleep, as each feels like a mini-beanbag for your head. The cushions, £95, come in marine, red, time and aqua, from Browns Living (0171-

£28, you can sit on irman Mao's Chairman Mao' face, The 40cm x 50cm "Mao" cushlon is black and white with a velvet backing from World (see above)

LEFT: Filled

with lavender, this

30cm x 10cm black

accessory from Donn

Keran (0171-495

3100), comes in a

arometherapy candles

satin head rest, £70, a

RIGHT: FOR

cushions start at £30 each for a 30cm x 30cm version, and rise to £50 for

LEFT: A unique soundlaser (similar to that used for ultrasounds at a hospital) has been adapted by Janet Stoyel (0171-401 2570) to attem her polyeste cushions. Available (n

gold, silver and bronze, the ABOVE The "Energising" cushion set, £63, consists of three white spun organiza cushions. each 15cm x 20cm and filled with an aromatic 41cm x 41cm

herb - rosemary, peppermint or white sage. From Donna Karan (see left)

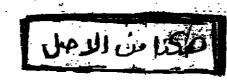
LEFT: It's not too miortable to sit on, but this 60cm x 90cm

£85, is striking

orange, From

to look at in blue and

cushion

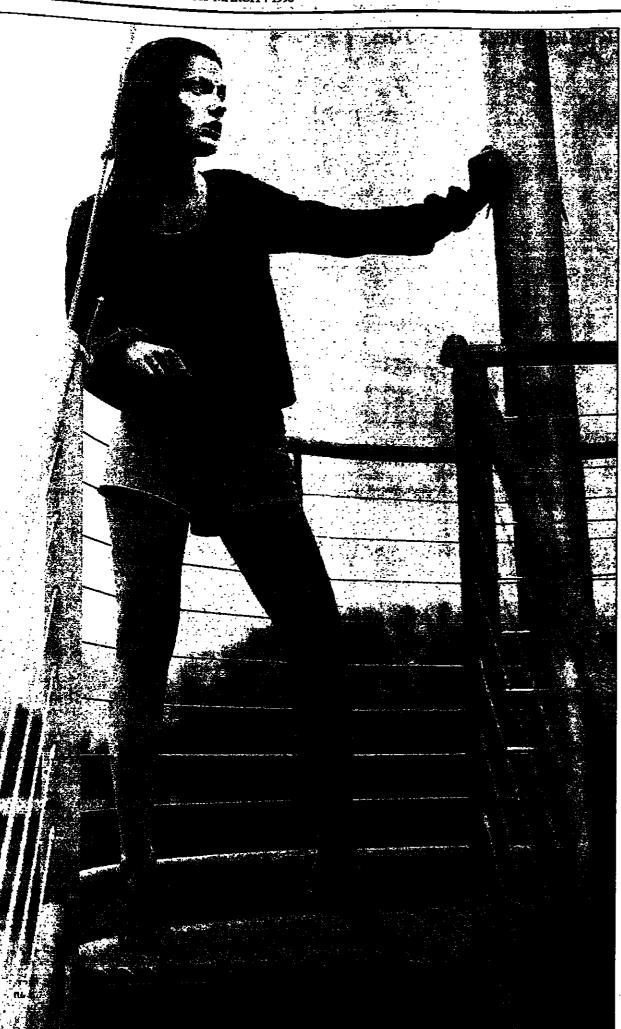


Watches to suit every style of clothing — in weather. LG

strap Hydro Compass watch, £32.50, Swatch. department

(0171-836

tastening Eclipse watch. £50, Fossie. Debenhams, (01908





Game plans

LEFT: Blue striped knit dress, £105.50, Strenesse, Selfridges W1, and selected stores nationwide (0171-823 3799). Blue zip-up fleece hood top. £35, Warehouse, see right

BELOW: Blue nylon shiny jacket, £119.99, Diesel, Blue floral embroidered skirt, £39.99, Kookaī, W1 (0171-937 4411). Birre leather shoes, £45, Ravel, Oxford Street, W1, and





ondon Fashion Week may have proved that British designers are the masters of street style, but American design is fit and fighting back. Sports-wear, long the favoured apparel of every American, has gone from the baseball stadim to the high street, with mainstream US designers such as Calvin Klein, Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren lead-ing the field with their collections of fashionable fleeces, tracksuit pants and trainers.

American sportswear influences have been with us since the Fifties, when jeans, plim-solls and baseball jackets were the height of cool. This time, though, it is not a single item but a whole look we are appropriating. Entire sportswear ranges are now being integrated into mainstream

According to Archie Fernandez, sales director of Björn Borg, the influence of the sports industry on designer collections has been phenome-nal, resulting in his company having "both casualwear and clubwear collections with an

Although the collections use the traditional colours and styles of the sports field — grey, red, black and white, with trademark stripes and zip-fronted jackets — the new spring look is also soft, feminine and comfortable.

aramount on the spring/summer catwalks is luxury. In New York, Calvin Klein showed tracksuit pants and zip-fronted hooded jackets in pale silk; Bill Blass a white silk crepe tennis dress; Vivienne Tam loose linen drawstring "sweatpants" with heavily beaded spaghetti-strap

Wearing the full strip is not essential. The idea is to mix basic fashion items with sportswear — drawstring pants with sequinned tops; little lace skirts with fine silk sweatshirts; naval-inspired dresses with spiky heels. The goal is not looking like a team player, but joining in the young and relaxed spirit of the this spring's fashion game.

LISA GRAINGER

ABOVE: Red knit tank-top, £49.99; red knit cardigan, £69.99, Diesel,

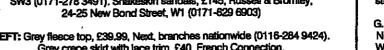
ABOVE LEFT: Suedette charcoal drawstring top, £125, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-590 6200). Khaki shorts, £25, Warehouse, 96 King's Road, SW3 (0171-278 3491). Snakeskin sandals, £145, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New B

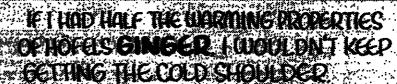
LEFT: Grey fleece top, £39.99, Next, branches nationwide (0116-284 9424).
Grey crepe skirt with lace trim, £40, French Connection, branches nationwide (0171-399 7200)

Hair and make-up by Salty Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774) Styling by Amandip Uppal. Model: Rebecca

43 Eartham Street, WC1 (0171-833 2255). Khaki linen mix drawstring trousers, £89.95, Planet, major department stores (0181-800 8022)

Burgundy and blue fabricstrap watch, £99.99, G. Shock, 55 Neal Street, WC2 (0171-497 0534; mail order 0800 387146)







GINGER

Höfels High Strength Ginger can warm both you and your other half, which is fortunate, because at this time of year many people

need warming. Carefully formulated by Seven Seas, Höfels High Strength Ginger is a convenient, one-a-day herbal preparation that's easy to take all year round. So



whenever you need a little warmth, why not try Hofels High Strength Ginger?

Richard Owen meets the maestro of the art of traditional pizza-making



Pino Arlacchi, the "champion of pizza chefs", disputes the widely-held view that pizza is a Neapolitan dish from the 18th century, and suggests it has ancient Arab origins

Throw dough the Neapolitan way

able, going down the pan? Not according to Ciro Moffa, the owner of one of Rome's most successful pizzerias, close to the illuminated fountains of the Piazza del Popolo. Every evening the narrow pavement outside Pizza Re ("King Pizza"), his modern, brightly lit restaurant, is packed with pizza lovers vying for a table, and he even has to provide a hissing gas heater to keep the crowds warm on winter

nights.
Only established three years ago.
Pizza Re is a firm favourite with the young and fashionable. The secret lies in the ingredients," Moffa says, waving his arms about exuberantly. "Pizza was invented in Naples, I am from Naples, and our pizzas are 100 per cent Neapolitan.

But the Italian food authorities are sufficiently alarmed by the decline of the pizza - the very essence of Italy, according to Britain's EU presidency logo, which, controversially, uses a a as the Italian symbol down new standards for pizza chefs to follow. There are 20,000 pizzerias in Italy - and that's not counting the bakers who sell pizza by the slice as street food. A million pizzas are consumed every day.

But, as many tourists know to their cost, not everything sold as pizza is worthy of the name. You don't find anything quite as bizarre as the concoctions which pass for pizza in London or New York. "Deep pan" is an unknown concept in the land of the pizza's birth, mercifully, as are many of the more eclectic toppings. But there are plenty of soggy, greasy or thinly topped Italian examples to give pizza a had name.

To the delight of native Neapolitans, the National Standards Institute, known by its initials as UNI, has plumped for genuine Neapolitanstyle pizza in its efforts to guarantee

quality.

"We are going to award certificates

for wine." a UNI the way we do for wine," a UNI official explained. Pizzerias which pass the Naples test will be declared worthy of a "DOC" certificate (the Controllata"). Pizzaioli (pizza chefs) who hope to qualify may no longer use just any old tomatoes, cheese, or olive oil.

The tomatoes must be plum ones,

allowed only on the simplest of pizzas, the Margherita, named after Queen Margherita (1851-1926, wife of King Umberto of Savoy) and topped with tomato, cheese and basil (the "red, white and green" of the Italian flag). The cheese must be mozzarella made from buffalo milk (a tall order, given the declining number of buffalo in Italy), the olive oil must be "extra virgin", and the only salt permitted is

Rolling pins are banned: the pastry must be tossed by hand, and the dish must be cooked in a wood-fired oven (forno a legno) at a temperature of between 420 and 480 degrees.

At his family pizzeria in the tough working-class neighbourhood of Magliana, I found Pino Arlacchi, the champion of pizza chefs", distinctly sceptical about standards. DOC certificates and bureaucracy in general. He suspects a "Naples plot" is behind

Arlacchi, a wiry and tireless 31the fashionable Rome suburb of Parioli, where the course lasts three weeks. He also has to cater to the discerning housewives and burly builders and mechanics who crowd into his pizzeria for lunch, and whose ' culinary standards are high indeed.

hey appreciate his astonishing skill in tossing enormous amounts of pizza dough in the air, twirling the discs of pastry - which have the feel and consistency of chamois leather over his head and under his knees before slapping them back on to the stainless-steel worktop in a cloud of

In his kitchen he proudly displays his silver "pizza championship" cups, awarded by the Lazio region. But he is unrecentant about his new electric oven, which can take six long trays at a time. "We are open dawn to midnight," he explains.

He agrees with the UNI regulations on the use of sea salt and extra virgin oil. "But you have to bear in mind, Roman pizzas are thinner than Neapolitan ones. They are less bready, they weigh only 120 grams to a Neapolitan 250 grams."

Arlacchi also challenges the assumption - paraded as fact on the back of the glossy Pizza Re menu -

"I think it goes back much earlier than that," he says. "Pizza is one of man's earliest dishes, related to flat Arab breads cooked on hot stones in the sun." And many Italian pizzerias are run by Arab immigrants.

For Arlacchi, who learnt the pizza trade at 18 from his mother, Maria Teresa (who still works in the shop), the secret lies not in the UNI recipe but in the dough, which in his case is one part water to one part flour. The traditional pizza dough is made of one part water to two parts flour. and is much heavier.

'I use North American flour, with added soya, tap water at room temperature, fresh yeast, plus salt and oil," Arlacchi says. He makes 38 kg of dough a day, and keeps it in the fridge for 48 hours to "prove". He cooks it at 380 degrees, below the UNI recommended level. " It's more digestible," he says.

One of London's top Italian chefs, pizza recipe is usually the simplest one. "We are talking about the Italian pizza, not the English one eaten in front of the television.

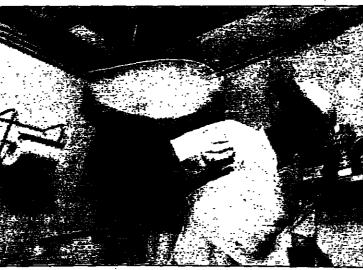
Though unimpressed by the idea of DOC for pizza - "it's like having a DOC for a sandwich: impossible" Locatelli is religious not only about his pizza recipes but also about the ovens they are cooked in. For his Soho restaurant Spiga, which opens next week, he brought over a specialist oven builder from Italy. In turn, the builder brought Italian water with him for the cement mix.

Like the Arlacchi family, he agrees with the Standards Institute that good pizza is getting harder to find in Rome". Those who want to taste it can try Arlacchi's prize-winning specialities such as his asparagus. salami and mozzarella pizza, or his mashed pumpkin, bacon and mozzarella pizza garnished with artichoke leaves; or Moffa's Capricciosa (ham, artichokes, mushrooms and olives) or Vesuvius (mozzarella, cream and

You can also try what the Pizza Re menu calls "rustic tarr". This does not refer to the young women in tight miniskirts who haunt the approach roads to Naples, but to pizza rustica. a deliciously light confection of eggs and ham resembling quiche.







Signor Arlacchi shows how to throw dough the old-fashioned way

Drink

Jane MacQuitty

The 300-year-old Berry Bros has much to celebrate - and much

it needs to improve upon

nyone visiting the independent wine merchants Berry Bros & Rudd at 3 St James's Street. London SWI, will think they are entering a time warp. The varnished frontage, greened with age, the gilded lettering and Georgian windows all smack of Dickens' day and cannot have changed much since Widow Bourne set up her coffee shop there in 1698. Step inside and the sloping floor, dark oak-panelled walls, antique bottles and roll-top desks all confirm the impression of

an emporium trapped in time. Yet appearances can be deceptive. Berry Bros is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year, and at long last has awoken from a deep slumber. Two of those roll-top desks contain computer terminals linked to the internet, and the pinstriped-suited young men who man this double royal

warrant-holders' shop deal in wine on their cordless

For years, Berry Bros was losing more money than it made on wine. It was propped up by sales of Cutty Sark whisky, now ranked ninth Scotch in the

world. However, in the nick of time for its tercentenary year, Berry Bros has been resuscitated

- and by the unlikely agency of the airports operator BAA. It approached Berry's in 1994 with the proposition of opening a No 3 lookalike at Heathrow's Terday wines that Berry's stocked failed to impress the jetset. So Berry's trialled some of its finest and rarest bottles, and was stunned when the likes of a magnum of 1900 Margaux went for £8,500.

Today "T3", in Berry's newfound 1990s parlance, stocks 80 first-growth vintages and turns over £3 million annually. "T4", or Berry's second Heathrow shop at Terminal 4. with a small wine bar, is on course to add a further £2

million this year.

A second blessing from Berry's fairy godmother arrived last year in the shape of the strongly based Sloane Avenue wine merchant Fields. Its wholesale trade to posh restaurants like The Ivy and Caprice, plus an important array of 60 wine producers' agencies, breathed an extra gust of life into Berry's.

As yet, Berry's fascia has not replaced Fields in Sloane Avenue, and Fields staff are unchanged. But Berry's, previously well-provided with personal and corporate customers, now has a useful wholesale arm, currently

pushing 20 different wines into Asda supermarkets. Berry's has known for a long time that it had to smarten up its act if it was

going to survive, and now it looks as if it will, thanks in part to brought-in management consultants, one of whom, Tony Easter, is now its managing director. He has been quick to home in on Berry's international customers and the marketing opportunities.

The best news for wine drinkers is that changes have also taken place in the manner and method that wine is bought. Gone is the family Politburo, and in its place are Masters of Wine Alun Griffiths, formerly of Harrods and Fortnum & Mason, and David Roberts. Mr Roberts is convinced that the thorough overhaul of Berry's own-label wines and frank discussions

with their producers has resulted 🗳 in improvements that are twothirds of the way along the quality road they want to follow.

My own tasting showed that Berry's has more work still to be done than it supposes. True, I was thrilled with the quality of Chapoutier's 1995 St Joseph with its black-as-night

Rhone spice (£8.95) and Anthony Barton's ripe cedar and cinnamon-stashed 1995 Médoc Anniversary Cuvée claret (£8.75), plus Faiveley's Marmite and chocolate 1992 Nuits St Georges ler Cru, Clos de la Marèchale domainebottled burgundy (£15.95), part of the anniversary selection.

The von Kesselstatt's gorgeous golden, petrolly 1989 Bernkasteler Lay Spattese is a £9.80 Mosel delight, as is Domaine Calor's 1995 Morgon, a fine earthy, plummy and cinnamon-spiced beaujolais (£8.75).

But of the almost 40 Berry's 🕏 wines I tasted on this occasion. not enough had the standalone star quality that a serious fine wine merchant selling serious quantities of fine wine should be able to muster. The Prince of Wales's Highgrove trio are not worth the £6.65-£8.75 asked for each, even if the profits go to a good cause and Berry's 300th Anniversary Cuvée Champagne (El5.25) from Binet is a smoky, awkward blend that needs improving.

Must try still harder should perhaps be Berry's wine department motto.

NEXT WEEK: Irish whiskey

1995 Marquis de Beaulleu

Bordeaux, Calvet, The

Victoria Wine Company,

25.99, or two for £10 until

Award yourself an early Easter

present with this deliciously

ripe, perfumed claret, whose

first-division 1995 truit delivers

flavours and a

long, firm,

enticingly rich, fleshy

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Gin-and-It

That's yer poison?" As if from a Terence Rattigan comedy of man-ners, would sound the reply: "Ooh, gin-and-it for me, darling. The all-bur-forgonen pairing of London gin with Italian sweet vermouth was hugely popular with the ladies - always, it seemed, at 5 o'clock. You would meet up with them at the old Quaglinos, or the Cafe de Paris between the wars.
Where, when and why so completely "it" fell

from grace is a mystery. The G&T remains a hardy perennial; gin-based cocktails are enjoying something of a revival. It is a sorry establishment that does not house a bottle of Martini Rosso and, at a push, a red Maraschino cherry to complete the ensemble, notably without ice. It sits half-way between forgotten and rediscovered, but it lacks the Hollywood "glamour" which seems essential for the fullblooded revival. You are unlikely to overhear Arnold Schwarzenegger ordering one at Planet Hollywood.

From its early Dutch origins, gin, the "mother's ruin", went through various stages of Hogarthian infamy before achieving respectability in polite society with the introduction of unsweetened, "dry" gin in the 1870s. Empire-builders mixed it with Indian "tonic" water, Royal Navy officers mixed it with Angostura bitters (to produce a "pink gin"). Women took it with enthusiasm and a drop of vermouth. This aromatised wine may be the block to future popularity.

The prevailing snobbery is for "pure".



uncomplicated and unsweetened ingredients. Until that trend passes, the cry for "gin-and-it" will be heard only in a dwindling number of golf clubs, and in old films on the telly.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S **CHEAT OF THE WEEK**

THERE IS ONE phrase that sends a shiver down my spine when I visit someone's house for the first time and am offered a roast joint: "Would you carve, Henry?" A strategic withdrawal to the car is the first thing that springs to mind, but, sadly, I do possess some manners and have yet to refuse this honour.

Worry over the treasured family carving knife that is usually proferred is the reason I have such cowardly

If it is of the bone-handled variety, with a machete-type blade, then I know I'm in trouble - you never know which is the sharper edge.
As interest in serious home cooking grows steadily, we are spending more on knives than we used to - yet we regularly ruin these very expensive objects because we don't know how to sharpen

It is time to admit defeat with the steel that you have spent years trying to master and get the ideal device for the best cutting edge: the Chantry knife sharpener. This contains two small

them correctly.



steel surfaces in a springloaded mechanism which you drag the knife through; after a couple of drags, even the bluntest of knives will have a decent edge.

You will now be thinking

I have tried countless imitations of this device (it's been around for years), but this is the only one I would recommend. The one I have at home has been in use for more than ten years and still performs.

about a couple of knives to

enhance your collection. I

only use four knives at home.

Japanese style chopping knife

a small semated knife; a

Solingen (01782 825835 for stockists). Chantry knife sharpeners are available in department stores, kitchen shops and kitchen equipment mail-order companies.

Happy carving, and watch those fingers! Last week we mistakenly

with a Granton edge, a long

carving knife, also with a

Granton; and a 20cm cook's

The Granton edged-knife

has deep grooves scored into

each side of the blade. This

gives an edge of varying degrees of thickness that

makes carving and sharpen-

ing easier, it is also very good

for preventing thin slices of

fish from sticking to the blade

and breaking up.
As always, it is worth in-

vesting in a good quality knife. I use Ed Wusthof of

said that olives should be to remove bitterness. Alcohol should have read alkaline. Henry Harris is chef at

Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor Restaurant in Knightsbridge,

washed in an alcohol solution

STAR BUYS

Valley Vineyard Selection Riesling, Oddbins, £7,99

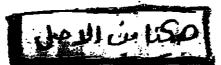
Blow the budget this week on gloriously verdant spring bottle from New Zealand Montana is the Klwis' biggest wine producer and its new top-drawer range of reserve wines, including this racy

riesling from selected *rin*eyards in Mariborough's prime Awatere worth the extra outlay. Savour this rich, concentrated

riesling, full of Intense lime and floral spice in the garden On a sunny day

cedary finish. Discerning claret drinkers once gave a wide berth to Calvet. But of late I have been impressed by the quality of its wines, particularly their taste and Value for money.

BEST OF THE REST Other multi-buys that are worth snapping up at Victoria Wine include £3 off its good, ordinary Jacques Monteau Brut Champagrie (£9.99) and two bottles of its respectable, luscious, grapey Castillo de Lina from Spain for £2.50 each (down 69p). And there's a straight £1 off its decent Marquis de la Tour Chardonnay fizz from the Loire (£3.99).



The Times Cook

The classic Belgian meal of mussels, frites and truffles with beer is now only a skip, hop and train ride away

ow often do you change the menu, I asked the chef. Six times a year. with the seasons. Six According to Pierre seasons? Wynants, third-generation chef/ patron of Comme Chez Soi, the seasons start in February with black truffles, move on to jets de houblon (or hop shoots), then morilles (the wild mushrooms of May), and primeurs (the first of summer's fruits and vegetables), then early game (wild duck and partridge), and finally the main game season (wild boar, venison and hare) and white truffles.

Here, in the kitchens of one of the world's finest restaurants. I watch M Wynants's brigade, including his son and son-in-law, prepare the exquisite dishes for which the restaurant is famous, including filets de sole, mousseline au ries-

ling et aux crevettes grises.
The good news is that Comme Chez Soi, like the rest of the good eating places in Brussels, is now only two hours and 40 minutes from London by Eurostar, less if Ashford is your nearest station. Each area of Brussels has its traiteurs, bakers and pastry shops, and branches of the Delhaize



supermarket chain. Elegant shops, department stores and restaurants are to be found in the Avenue Louise area, but I prefer the Place des Grands Sablons, where browsing round antique shops can be interspersed with a visit to Pierre . Marcolini for sublime chocolates or to Le Pain Quotidien for excellent bread and iam.

In the centre, near the Grand' Place, bars and chocolate shops are more in evidence than food shops. But newly opened in the Brussels Midi station, near the Eurostar arrivals, is a small supermarket called GB Express, which is ideal for food shopping, including those incredibly sweet shrimp, tiny greyish pink ones from Belgium's north sea coast.

Sunday night in Brussels is a good time to visit a few bars like Au

Bon Vieux Temps and the estami-net L'Imaige Nostre-Dame in the Impasse des Cadeaux off the Marché aux Herbes, or Le Fiacre near the Bourse. To satisfy the appetite, you will find some good addresses in this area. Chez Leon, Aux Armes de Bruxelles, Restaurant Vincent and 't Kelderke, all serve good food with a distinct flavour of Brussels. Eels in green sauce, waterzooi (of fish or chicken), filet americain (steak tartare), pigs' trotters, oysters and, of course, mussels, plain, or in a variety of sauces, served with chips, are some

of the dishes to look for. From Brussels, with a car, or by train, you can easily reach other parts of the country, and in doing so, you will find some very good tables. I have been visiting Belgium for several years now at the invitation of the Brussels Food From Britain office, which together with Ambiance, a food, wine and travel magazine for both Belgium and The Netherlands, sponsors the

Lady Chef Competition. I have found charming restaurants in the countryside, such as La Barrière in the heart of the Ardennes, where competition-winner Anne Marie Clip cooks seasonal lood with a very sure touch.

Her celebratory lunch was based around British produce, and I was most taken with her consommérich, full-flavoured, with herbs and shredded vegetables but also including strips of Quorn. Her fillet of South Down lamb was stuffed with its liver, kidneys, feet and sweetbreads and proved very good

Potato and shrimp salad Serves 2

6 to 8 small to medium-size waxy potatoes, such as Charlotte Handful of green beans, topped and

2 handfuls baby spinach, rinsed and A few leaves of rocket, mâche, or

2 heaped thsp (about 75-100g) peeled and freshly cooked strimps

2tbsp fromage frais or yoghurt 1-2tsp grain, Dijon or other mustard 1tbsp chopped dill, chives, or

11 To 210 91

Frances Bissell

Scrub and boil the potatoes and, when almost cooked, add the beans. When cooked, drain those

egetables and halve the potatoes. Place the spinach and rocket on two dinner plates. Arrange the beans and potatoes on top, and heap the shrimp in the centre. Mix the fromage frais, mustard and herbs, together with salt and pepper to taste. Spoon over the salad. (Variation: use freshly cooked and shelled mussels in the salad instead of shrimps.)

mmé with Quom and

berb butter Serves 2 75g Quom

2tbsp fino sherry 1 bay leaf sprig of thyme 1 small courgette

1 tomato, peeled, seeded and diced 20g softened unsalted butter Sprig each of chervil, tarragon and basil, chopped 400ml consommé or vegetable

Marinate the Quorn in the sherry with the herbs for an hour, and then strain the marinade into the consommé. Cut the Quorn and

courgette into julienne. Mix the butter with the herbs, and chill it in a cube. Bring the

and then simmer on a gently heat for 20-25 minutes. Strain the stock into a clean saucepan, and reduce by two thirds. Heat a non-stick consomme to the boil, drop in the courgettes, tomatoes and quorn. cook for 2-3 minutes, and then ladle

into hot soup bowls.

Float a piece of herb butter on top, and serve immediately.

Fillets of sole in a white wine sauce with shrimps and after a recipe by Pierre Wynants

1 large Dover sole (about 500g) filleted and skinned, but keep the bones Salt and pepper

1/2 leek, trimmed, sliced, and

frying pan, and add a nut of butter.

In it fry the mushrooms until just soft. Remove and put to one side. Add a little more butter to the pan, and in it place the sole fillets, folded 1 celery stalk, rinsed and chopped over. Partially cover the pan, and

sweat the fish gently for 4 minutes or so, until barely done. Transfer to warm plates, cover loosely with foil while you finish the dish. Pour the reduced stock into the frying pan, add the egg yolks, and whisk, over very gentle heat, until the sauce thickens but does not curdle. Whisk in the remaining butter, a piece at a time, and then stir in the shrimps

200ml dry white wine

2 free-range egg yolks

2tbsp peeled, treshly cooked shrimps

Chervil for garnish

50g unsetted butter, chilled and

Dash of freshly grated nutmeg

8 button mushrooms, brushed and

Lightly season the fish fillets, and

put to one side. Put the fish bones

and skin in a saucepan with the celery, leek, bay leaf and liquid. Bring to the boil, skim the surface,

200ml water

thinly sliced

and mushrooms. Spoon a little sauce over the fish, and the rest around it. As in the previous recipe, cooked, shelled mussels can replace the shrimps. Or, if you prefer, so can a few oysters. Serves 4 to 6

300g puff or rich shortcrust 100g light muscovado sugar 100g dark muscovado sugar 50g ground almonds 150ml double cream

2 large free-range eggs 50g unsalted butter, chilled and

Roll the pastry out to about 30cm in diameter, and use it to line a shallow 25-26cm tart tin. Trim the edges, and prick the base all over. Mix the two sugars and the

THE PERFECT MUSSELS

Come out of

your shell

AS LONG as none of your guests is allergic to shellfish, a steaming bowl of mussels is a treat on a cold night. It is a beautiful sight, the orange contrasting with the pearly inside of the shell and the blueblack outer surface. And it smells

MYOU NEED: for each person, a litre of mussels, about four table-spoons of dry white wine, a peeled and chopped shallot, a tablespoon of finely chopped parsley and pepper (the mussels carry their own salt).

■ METHOD: scrub the mussels under running water, remove any barnacles (as they can release sand barnacies (as they can release sand into the finished dish), and discard any shells that are open (because they are dead, which can be dangerous). Place in a large lidded pot with the rest of the ingredients. Clamp the lid on, raise the heat, and cook for three to four minutes. shaking well. Transfer to a large heated bowl or serve from the pot. Discard any shells that stay closed (as they were probably dead).

■ TO SERVE: start with charcuterie, salad and one or two cheeses, then the mussels with crusty bread, and finish with a fruit compote. Vary the dish by using watercress, rocket, leeks or spinach in place of the parsley: try a pinch of saffron, or use dry cider instead of white wine.

NEXT WEEK: The perfect burger

almonds, and spread this over the pastry base. Beat the cream and eggs and spread this evenly over the sugar. Dot the surface with butter and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180 C, gas mark 4, for about 30 minutes. Remove from the oven, and transfer the tart to a wire rack. This is best eaten just warm.

● Comme Chez Soi, 23 Place Rouppe, Bi000 Brussels (00 32 2 5122921, fax: 00 32 2 5118052); Hótel-Restaurant de la Barrière, rue de la Barrière, 6890 Transinne en Haute-Lesse (00 32 o 1655037, fax: 00 32 6 1655532); Food From Britain: contact Charlotte Lawson on 0171-233 5111 for addresses f Lady Chef restaurants in Belgium: Eurostar: 0345 303030.

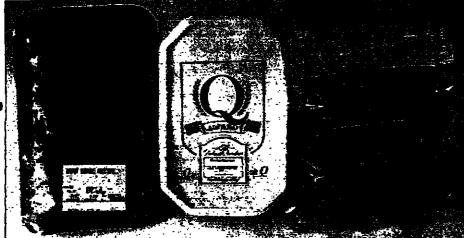
NEXT WEEK: The Times Cook in Manhattan

Seasoning

ARE GREAT British bangers only found down on the farm? A survey of sausages from specialist producers around the country suggests that most do not manage products which are even on a par with those that can be found in the better supermarkets, though a very few may be truly

excellent. There were some very amateurish efforts in this selection.

My advice for those within reach of a Waitrose store is that none of those reported on here could oust my previously nominat-ed best buy, the Waitrose Farmhouse Pork ROBIN YOUNG



Tomato Sausage, £1.90 for 450g from Chaisworth Farm Shop, Stud Farm, Pilsley, Derhyshire, DE45 IUF (01246 583392). Claims: "Made by our

butchers in the farm shop. Minimum o5 per cent meat." Verdict: A winner, with a simple recipe of pork, rusk, tomatoes and seasoning. Unlinked, evenly formed (by machines) sausages (six to the pound) in a boxed presentation with sprigs of fresh parsley. Cooked juicily to a jully, bouncy texture inside over-resilient skins. Tasted well. **2

Graig Farm Homemade Organic Plain Pork Sausages, Eo.41 per kg. or 17.30 by mail order, from Dolay, Llandrindod Wells. Posys LD157L

₁₁₁₅77 85 (655). Claims: Only natural ingredients, no colouring, artificial flavouring or preservatives. Meat content

si) per cent. Verdict A dozen to the pound in a long, thin shape, cherootlike when cuoked. Meaty sausages with some chewy hits, but a clean, simple and direct flavour. **

Swaddles Green Farm Plain Sausages, £7.60 per kg. from Harle Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, Somerset, TAZO UR (01460 234387). Delivery free in London or for oniers over £80 outside. Claims: Organic farmers and gravers. Verdict: Wet flabby loose-knit sausages, which lost a lot of moisture under the grill and yet still sat in puddles on the plate. Messy to eat. Dilute and unattractive flavour. *

Charles Harris Cornisb Pork Sausage, £4.63 per kg. from Tywardreath Butchers, 41 Church Street, Trywardreath, Par, Cornwall PL22 2QQ (01726 812051). Delivery: £10 per order. Claims: "Champion Sausages". Minimum 70 per Verdict: Bland, rather bready and a bit boring without condiments. *

The Sausage Maker Aunt Edna's Recipe, E4.76 per kg from Bryan Pickering, 30 The Street, Old Costessey. Norwich NR8 5DB (01603 742002). Delivery: £8.50 per order up to lOkg. Claims: From a range of over 40 recipes. Aunt Edna's is described as "Lincolnshiretype pork sausage with rubbed sage and black pepper". Seven to the pound. Offers food delivered to your door anywhere in the UK in just 24 hours" and discounts (5 per cent for 51b, 10 per cent for 101b).

FOOD & DRINK

Verdict: Well-shaped and firmly formed sausage which cooked nicely and had the advantage of pleasant, even and light spicing, sufficient for interest without being

Old Spot Farm Sussex Herby Pork Sausages, £2.75 per lb from Piltdown, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3XN (01825 722894/723929). Also Plain Pork Sausages, £2.75 per lb. Minimum delivery charge E10 (covers up

excessive. ***

to 10kg).
Claims: "The finest sausages made, finest foods from the heart of Sussex." From a range of about 30 "original recipes by Raymond the Butcher". 80 per cent freerange pork, no artificial preservatives or colourings, natural casings. Vendict: Large sausages (eight

make 14 lb) with a rough, dry, grainy texture and oxidised, darkened colouring. Tasted as if the meat had shrivelled in the cooking. *

J Wickens Family Butchers Pork and Herb, £2.10 per lb (£4.62 per kg) from shop at Castle Street, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4HU (01797 226287). Mail order is only offered as a service. Claims: "Genuinely handmade" from free-range additive-free Gloucester Old

Spot pigs.
Verdict: Big and dumpy sausages (eight to the pound) in rough and ready presentation. Marred by excessive use of dried

Salad days for active cover girl

Joe Warwick learns about fashion model Lili Maltese's healthy diet

HOME COOKING

s a successful model with the Elite agency, Lili Maltese has graced the pages of fashion magazines such as Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Elle and Marie Claire. She worked in New York, Paris and Milan for designers such as Versace, Armani and Valentino, before settling in London.

More recently she has been

a permanent fixture on the pages of the celebrity glossies Hello! and OK! by virtue of her relationship and subse-quent engagement to Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, owner of Sudeley Castle, with an estimated personal fortune of £50 million. Mr Dent-Brockle-hurst himself came to the public attention through his celebrated friendship with

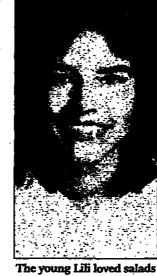
Elizabeth Hurley.
The child of Roger and Peggy Sue Maltese, Lili was born in Oregon in 1973 on a return trip from the hippy trail to Afghanistan. Named Lilikoi (meaning passion fruit in Ha-waiian) Valentine Maltese, she was raised on the tropical island of Hawaii.

Her father was killed in a car crash when she was only four and her mother raised both her and her brother, Reno, on her own for ten years before she remarried. Her stepfather is Bill Walk-

er, who designed album covers for the Grateful Dead, the LSD-fuelled band which burst on to the music scene in the late Stoties. Despite the early tragedy of her father's death, her mother

always wonderful and a lot of fun to be around". Peggy Sue thinks that her own diet may have helped Lili in later life. What was funny about Lili was when I was pregnant I ate really healthily. After she was born she never

remembers her daughter fondly as a child who was



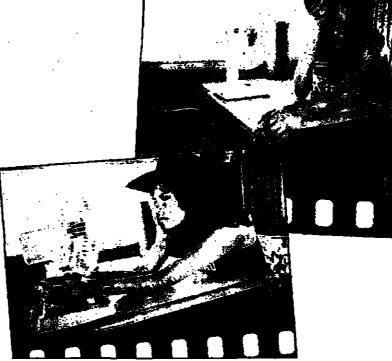
had any sugar until she was about two. She never had a sweet tooth and I really don't know if that's because she didn't have any sugar from an early age."

The Malteses' diet was enviably healthy, making use of the fresh ingredients readily available on the island.

eat never featured strongly in their meals: "I suppose you could say we had pretty much a vegetarian diet. It was based on whole grains, dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables. We did eat fish and we did eat chicken sometimes but it was very rarely that we had

Peggy Sue remembers Lili as a gentle child who always loved animals. We had this beautiful Great Dane and I remember her crawling all over the dog's back. She was also always interested in horses and riding."

. Her mother remembers her as being enthusiastic in the kitchen. "She really loved sal-



Oregon-born Lili Maltese is a familiar face on the pages of glossy magazines

She loved to cook. She would make these fantastic meals and not even use a recipe'

ads, she made the best salads She loved to cook. She was always this very creative cook. Once she got into a routine, she would make these fantastic meals and she would not even use a recipe." Lili's love of cooking extend-

ed to eating it and she never followed a regimented diet. 'She never practised real diets. She was probably always naturally slim but she did watch what she was eating. She always ate the right things, but she loved to eat."

At school, Peggy Sue remembers Lili as "particularly into drama. She acted in a lot of plays. She also tried out for a lot of sports.

She did cross-country run-ning for a while. When she began she was one of the worst runners — she stuck at it, though, and did well eventually. She was determined to do her best at whatever she tried." Lili's healthy eating habits make her a suitable spokeswoman for California Prunes,

which starts on March 16.

GINGER SINCE Made from real aicen Root Gir which she will be promoting during National Prune Week.

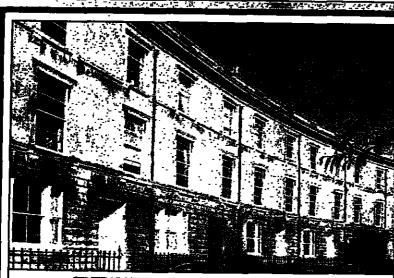
THE LIVELIEST

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ni. £500,000. Corney Dotry : 0171 384 2228.	TONSLEY	HIGHGATE	CAMPDEN STREET, W8	WSEDMELL with planning parasis- sion on river bank in Lake Dis- trict. (Good Feng Shar). Games possible, officer C 250,000. Hanse Reply to Box No 1076				为,"是大小,"	3 7
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LONDON PROPERTY



CENTRAL NORTH OXFORD Price Guide: #585,000 A well presented Grade II listed house in the conservation area of Park Town.
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room,
2 cloakrooms, kitchenette, 2 cellars and walled garden.

OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



OXFORDSHIRE - Enstone Price Guide £595,000

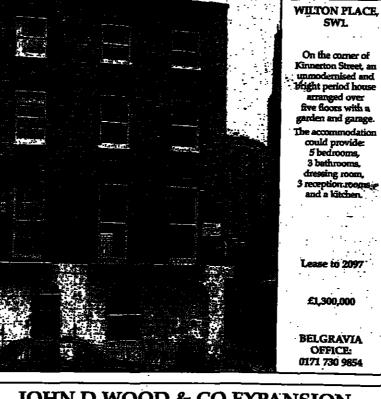
An extensive and well-appointed family house with landscaped gardens and grazing of about 8.91 ha (22 acres). 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 5 reception rooms, kitchen, 3 garages, heated swimming pool, stables and 2 paddocks. OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



GLOUCESTER WALK, W8. Share of Freehold £650,000 A beautifully presented maisonetic on the ground and lower ground floors of a Victorian house, with a south-facing terrace and pario garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room reception room and kitchen. KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705

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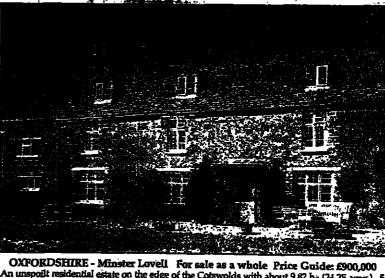
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ISLE OF WIGHT — Freshwater Bay Price Guide: £295,000

In a commanding position overlooking the English Channel and Freshwater Bay, a well presented and south-facing house. 3/5 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms, shower room, 2/4 reception rooms, kinchen, sun room, 4 car garage, terrace and garden. Joint Sole Agents: Hose Rhodes Dickson 01983 521144. LYMINGTON OFFICE: 01590 677233



OXFORDSHIRE - Minster Lovell For sale as a whole Price Guide: £900,000 An unspoilt residential estate on the edge of the Cotswolds with about 9.82 ha (24.25 acres). 5 bedroom farmhouse with self-contained staff flat, gardens, orchards, tennis court, range of barns, holiday cottages. White Hall Plant and Shrub Nurseries, paddocks and woodland.

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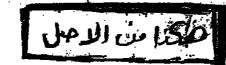


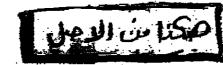
BATTERSEA HIGH STREET, SWIL. Freehold £465,000 Set back from the road and in a conservation area off Battersea Square, a detached house with off-street parking and close to local amenities. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower troom, dressing morn, reception room, kitchen/dining room, hall/study area and garden.

BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174

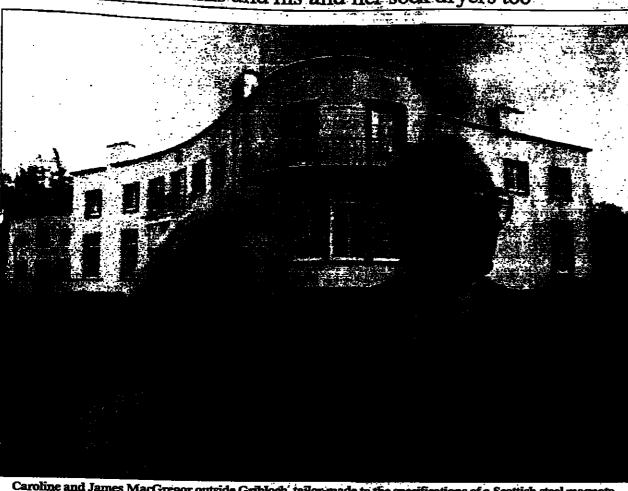


WELL WALK, NW3. Lease to 2978 £375,000
In a tranquil position within Hampstead Village, a maisomette on the first and second floors of a handsome Victorian house. 2 bedrooms, hathroom, shower room, 2 reception mons, position within transposed values, bathroom, shower room, 2 reception moons, study area, kitchen, cloakroom, roof terrace and off-street parking. HAMPSTEAD OFFICE: 0171 431 3232





Marcus Binney visits a well-preserved 1930s home in Stirlingshire with fine original furthure and a swimming pool. All this and his-and-her sock dryers too



Caroline and James MacGregor outside Gribloch, tailor-made to the specifications of a Scottish steel magnate

A Ginger Rogers kind of grandeur

HOUSE OF

A LONG

vle

ribloch is one of the most stylish and comfortable 1930s to go on sale. Most original and it is on offer for £1.2 million with a huge amount of fine original furniture.

The house was built for the Scottish steel magnate John Colville and his Californian vife Helen in 1938-39 and was ought from the Colville fam-

letters for research and showing how the Colvilles took ideas from articles in American magazines such as House Beautiful, which are all preserved in the library.

The house commands a magnificent panorama of the Grampians and was built on a virgin site where Mr Colville was taken by his nanny to picnic as a boy.

In photographs, Gribloch can look quite modest, but the first glimpse of the long white front from the road below sets the adrenalin racing.

The house is approached up steep, curving drive (Mr Royce that his car wouldn't take it in third gear) and delivers you on a manicared gravel sweep perched on the crest of a hill and surrounded by the shortest of mossy grass.

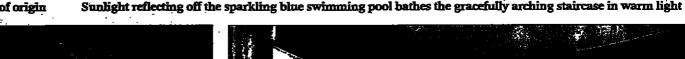
Mr Colville gave his architect, the young Basil Spence (later the architect of Coventry Cathedral), firm instructions about combining both "the view and the sun" in all the main rooms.
Once the front door is

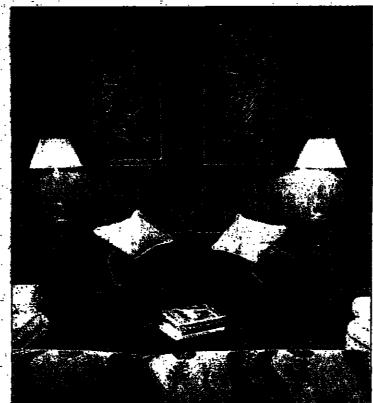
opened you look straight out of the house on the other side, through a giant Oriel window with a sparkling blue swimming pool immediately be-When the sun bursts yonď. through the clouds the whole staircase, painted a luminous powder blue, is filled with rippling reflections.

Cascading down across the window is a flying staircase that might have been designed of Ginger Rogers, in which, amazingly, the great Sir









Nikolaus Pevsner had a hand Above lovebirds Mr Spence rose to his brief in gather above a the conception of the house but finely crafted unfortunately became so busy with clients that he called in and highly Perry Duncan, an American architect, to move the plans

e handed the interior decoration over to John Hill, who on the strength of his work here deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Oliver Messel. He responded perfectly to the Colvilles' desire for elegant understatement, achieving impact by brilliant use of fresh, mainly pale

intricate window grill, one of many original features that have been preserved

colours and superb decorative The hall has a wonderfully original shell and rope cornice and bold matching rope mouldings around the doors and archways. His carpet, in

shades of mulberry, blue, met. The silk satin curtains in white and beige, was rewoven to the original design in Doneshades of oyster, purple and turquoise survive neatly folded away in the linen-room cupboards. Restored, they gal and still lies on the floor. The living room has wraparound windows with the would make the room as original bullion-fringed pel-

smart as the penthouse in Claridges. Mr Colville's desk in Australian walnut remains, designed by Betty Joel with solid wood drawers that click shut on ballbearings - "Like expensive car doors," Caroline

MacGregor says.

Beside the fire is a shining chrome coalbox. Or is it stainless steel? "Bright metal." says Mr MacGregor rather diplo-

matically.
The dining-room doors are veneered in mahogany with guilloche mouldings copied from the Colvilles' sideboard. The door handles are cut glass, the top end of a hierarchy that descends through chromium plate to Bakelite in the servants' rooms. Even the original glass panels survive in some places — the glass allowed the wall paint beneath to show through, making the switches all but invisible.

The Colvilles had a 1,400acre sporting estate and the house naturally had its own gun room and adjoining



affords a spectacular view of the mountains in the distance

Left: Japanese furnishing lends å sitting room an` oriental charm

cleakroom with cupboards containing hot pipes to dry out clothes. Upstairs, the master bed-

room has a handsome deep fireplace entirely faced in lustrous copper, with massive copper fire dogs and copper pelmet rings gathering the curtains over the windows. In a letter written in 1937, Mr Spence talks of designing a

ety". In fact, there are 12 on his plan, including servants' bedrooms and the night nursery. 🥆 ach pair of main bedrooms shared a

house "of the 16-bedroom vari-

bathroom and Colville had special electric locks installed which closed both doors at the push of a button. The bedrooms are named after mountains that fill the

views from the windows. There are serpentine-headed twin beds, matching dressing table and stool, mirror-fronted fireplace and mirror waste paper basket.

Colville was keen on his mod cons. The drying room is complete with original "hisand-hers" sock dryers - coat hanger wire bent in the shape of an upturned boot on which

the kitchen corridor is a cupboard for drying kindling sticks. Every prospective pur-chaser asks Mr MacGregor about the wind. He points out that the trees around the house are not bent or bowed like

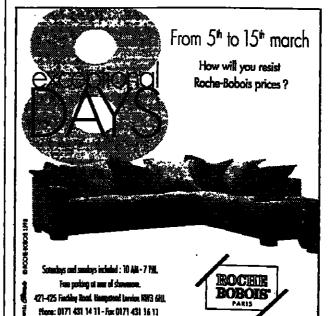
some in the valley below. Fast-moving clouds mean the sun is constantly breaking through, illuminating distant hills and the valley below. Sunsets are spectacular, and if there is mist, it often hovers on the valley floor, turning it into a vast loch.

Gribloch comes with three self-contained cottages -- a gate lodge and staff houses on either side of a capacious 13circle like a Victorian engine shed, complete with inspection

There is a sandstone wall garden and a peach house complete with peaches, nectarines and camellias, though it is in need of extensive restoration. Scented azaleas and huge rhododendrons abound.

Beside the swimming pool is a terracotta seal balancing a revolving copper ball on its nose. This may need attention, but the Tivoli-style wall of water jets spurting across the pool still work at the press of a

Agent: Knight Frank, 0131-225 8171.



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GRIBLOCH lies in the rich countryside of the Fintry Hills in Stirlingshire. more or less plumb in the middle of Scotland. The area is not exactly studded with villages, but unspoilt centres such as Kippen, Balfron and Fintry itself are popular with buyers. With Stirling only ten miles or so to the east, Edinburgh 45 miles southeast and Glasgow 28 miles south, this is prime commuting territory for prosperous urban Scots and incomers from south of the border. There has also been a renewed influx of families in which the breadwinner is based in the southeast of England, flying down to the office for

three or four days a week. The area offers easy access to Scotland's natural attractions. It is about an hour's drive to the wilds and the skiing country of the Highlands at Glen Coe, the sea locks of the west coast are also under an hour away. This central position can add a premium of 20 to 30 per cent to properties in comparison to, say, the Highlands or

the southern Border country.
Don't expect to find a wealth of 1930s



MARKET COMMENT

properties here, but there is no shortage of 19th-century farmhouses, often with a baronial turnet or two added by romantically inclined Victorian industralists or merchants. These generally have six to ten bedrooms, but they can vary enormously in price the more remote or decrepit cost as little as: E250,000, while those in the best condition and with a few acres may fetch £500,000 plus. Colin Strang Steele

at Knight Frank's Edinburgh office observes that the law of diminishing returns sets in as properties in this part of the world get above a certain size, so these rambling houses may represent relatively good value for money. On the other hand, they tend to be damp, draughty and rambling, and often need plenty of restoration and maintenance.

MOST POPULAR, he says, are the medium-sized country properties of four or five bedrooms, which may be Georgian manor houses (£500,000-plus with land), farmhouses (£250,000 to £400,000). "We suffer from a lack of middle-sized houses with a few acres attached," he explains, "because the estates in Scotland have not been broken up in the way they have been in England." At the lower end of the market meanwhile one can pick up village cottages for £100,000 to £150,000, though they are usually small and unlikely to be the rural idyli of the

average Cotswold village. FAITH GLASGOW

Guarantees that aren't built to last

A Buildmark warranty will not automatically protect buyers

of new homes against building defects, says Emma Haughton

Hockey moved into their new £295,000 home in Wingrave. Buckinghamshire, they immediately encountered problems. "When we tried to put up a blind, the window fell out." Mrs Hockey says. The stairs were not attached to the house, water came through the kitchen ceiling from the shower. and the chimney caught fire."

As the developer had gone bust, the National House Building Council sent in builders to carry out repairs under its ten-year warranty. "It was very distressing." she says, "but we kept telling ourseives it was just a nuisance and the structure of the house was OK."

But when the detached garage started cracking, the Flockeys became suspicious: an independent survey found their house walls were free-standing, and the loft and roof were unsound. The whole structure is balanced like a house of cards with nothing holding it together," says Mrs Hockey, who can't take baths because the floor

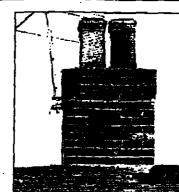
joists are faulty.

This time the NHBC was less helpful. It paid for the garage, but offered just E1,000 worth of work to cover an estimated £60,000-£100,000 worth of repairs to the house. Mrs Hockey is understandably bitter. "We didn't have a survey done when we bought the house because we left reassured by the warranty guarantee against faulty workmanship and structural defects, but the NHBC said we hadn't got actual damage and they

The Hockeys are not unusual. A survey of 2,000 homes by HAPM Insurance found widespread failure to meet basic building standards, with problems ranging from poor sound insulation and ventilation to badly designed and con-structed windows and doors. According to Professor Malcolm Hollis, surveyor and chair of building surveying at Reading University, the industry wastes 10 per cent of total construction costs on repairing defects.
The result of the Hockeys' case is

unwelcome news for buyers. "They expect that if anything goes wrong it will be dealt with quickly," says Professor Hollis. "Unfortunately, this is rarely the case."

Just how rarely has filled some 3,000 files at the Association of New Home Owners, set up two years



The chimney caught fire

ago by Chris Lorentzen, who found more than 100 defects in his new EI40,000 home in West Sussex. People rarely get full structural surveys done, he explains, because there is a false perception that every new home is constructed to rigorous government controls, and that the warranty is a guarantee.

There are also growing concern about the effectiveness of NHBC and building-control inspections. While local authorities once examined every bome for compliance to government regulations, in 1985 the NHBC was licensed to perform inspections for building control as well as its own warranty. "Builders can now either buy inspections from the council, who ensure everything is done properly, or from private inspectors, who are far more lenient," says Professor Hollis, pointing out that most houses receive far less than the 11 or so inspections necessary to ensure all the elements are checked.

Even those in the trade can be caught out. Despite drawing up approved plans, employing a structural surveyor to oversee much of the work, and using an NHBC-

approved builder, architect Martin Byrne found extensive water penetration in his detached home in Northern Ireland.

In pursuit of compensation, he undertook NHBC arbitration but. after a counterclaim from the builder and costs, ended up £15,000 out of pocket; the NHBC's latest offer of £20,000 still falls far short of the £65,000 repair bill.

Although 1.7 million householders are covered by the NHBC's tenyear Buildmark warranty, many misunderstand the protection it offers. Rather than a guarantee, it is an insurance policy which for two years holds the builder responsible for breaches of required standards, then for the remaining eight years warranties against sig-nificant structural damage. "It only deals with the major defects," says Professor Hollis. "but the minor ones are where all the money goes."

ecording to NHBC spokesperson Jane Chap-man, the council receives .8,000 valid claims each year on about 160,000 new properties, and last year it paid out £15 million under the Buildmark warranty. "We do recognise that problems occur and, where they do, the warranty covers people; those with long-standing problems should continue to contact our claims department."

Nevertheless, the NHBC is taking steps to improve its service, she says, with a new disiplinary committee for wayward builders, a layperson's guide to the warranty. site manager accreditation scheme and a new computerised

■ The Association of New Home Owners, 22 Abbey Road, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SO



Val Hockey's new home in Buckinghamshire which, independent surveyors found, was "balanced like a house of cards"



The cracked walls of the detached garage caused suspicion



The staircase which was not actually attached to the house

HOW TO AVOID THE PITFALLS

■ Read sales literature carefully before paying a deposit. Ask for any additional information in writing.

■ Always get a full structural survey, but bear in mind that even the best surveyor cannot examine hidden areas like foundations.
■ Beware show home tricks, like using undersized furniture to make rooms look bigger.

 Ask for a full copy of warranty documents and have all exclusions and limitations fully explained to you.
 Make subde inquiries with neighbours about the site's history. Avoid houses built on contaminated land.

Ask who carried out Building Control Regulation inspections and how many visits were made to the site.

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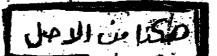


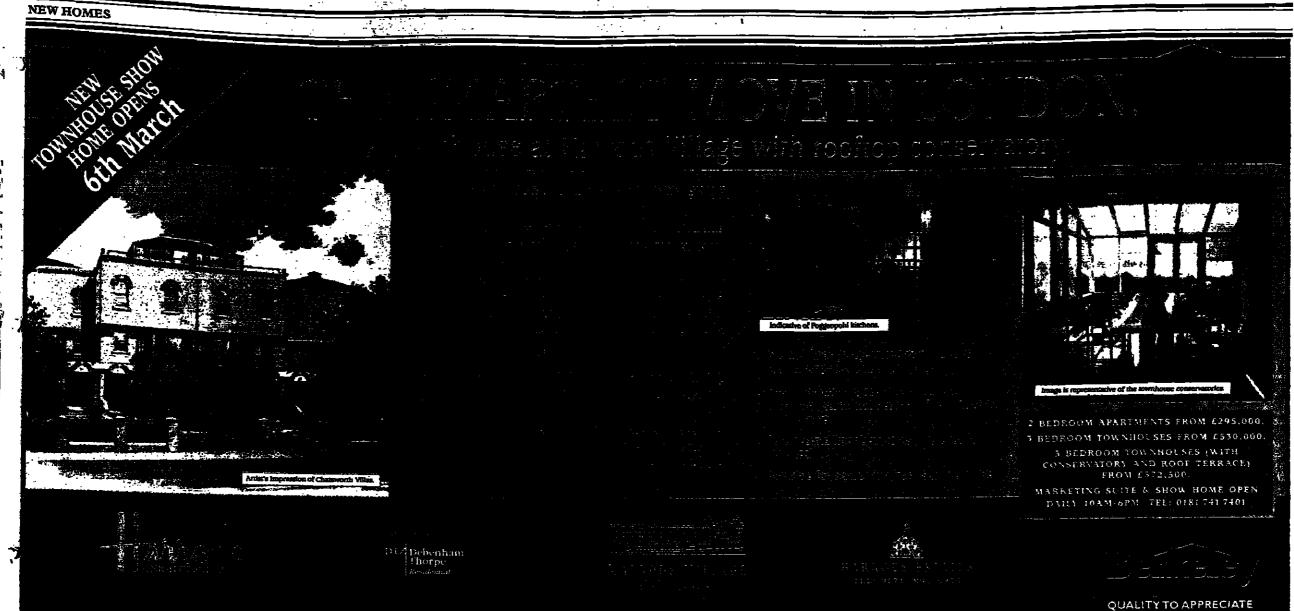
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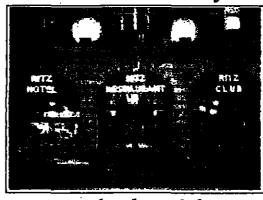
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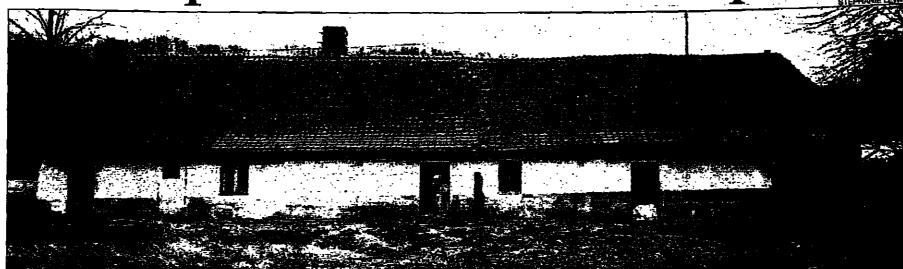
Acquiring a French property can be arduous, but one couple found their efforts ultimately brought rich rewards

ast summer, a dreamy, winefuelled conversation about escape, trout fishing and long outdoor suppers led my brother Miles, friend Toby and I to browse through French Property News. Since January. Miles and I Toby having sobered up — are the proud, if still faintly bemused, owners of an uninhabitable farmhouse near Montreuil.

By the time we saw it. Miles had spent a fruitless day in Normandy with an English agent who thought him a time-waster, and I had made appointments, through the London company Northern & Western France Properties, with three agents in Pas de Calais. One didn't show up and another showed me several depressing houses before asking me to translate a property blurb into English and turning down my copy with a sniff. The last agent was Jean-Pierre Lemaire of Activ' Imm. Montreuil sur Mer, who speaks excellent English and, though our budget was relatively small, was

keen to find us the right thing.
On only our second visit he showed us a long, low, light fermette with beamed ceilings. attached barn and a river at the bottom of the garden. In spite of peeling wallpaper (in the ugliest patterns ever sold), "mains water" that consisted of a stand-pipe in the main room, and an outside lavatory (sons plumbing) standing terially over a pit in a doorless, roof-less structure by the road, we knew that this was it. "Home"

Our peaceful Norman conquest



The farmhouse near Montreuil cost Fr190,000. It has beamed ceilings, an attached barn and a river at the bottom of the garden, but needs Fr300,000 spent on renovation

is just 55 minutes from the Channel Tunnel I was scribbling on graph paper within hours.

Unfortunately, other English buyers felt the same way and got in first, but they wanted to turn the house into Blenheim Palace-sur-Créquoise and were frightened off by the builder's estimate. A nerve-racking difference be-

tween the French system and the English is that surveyors do not exist in France you base your

decision to purchase, or not, on a builder's estimate. We flirted with the idea of using a British survey-or, but decided on a "when in Paris" policy, which we also followed when it came to the legalities of the purchase and did not retain a British solicitor.

French conveyancing is relative ly simple so the agent in London explained the paperwork and we went with the flow. Some four months and Fri90,000 (about

'In spite of peeling wallpaper, water from a stand-pipe and an outside lavatory standing over a pit. we knew this was it'

£19,000) later (plus agents' fees. notaire's fees and taxes - not to mention the Fr300,000 for basic renovation) the d vendre sign was removed. Our total budget is Fr550,000, so it's lucky I'm good

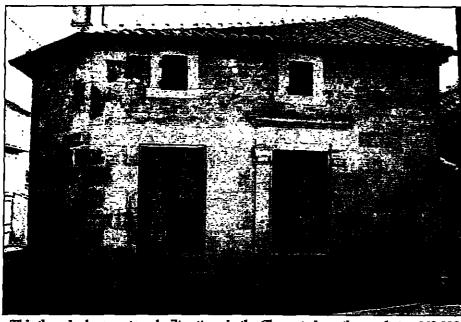
with junk and a staple gun. The builder. Dominic Rota of Bätiments des Septs Vallées, Offin. was recommended by Jean-Pierre after a festoon of estimates and hours of negotiation over pagne and charcuterie at his

house, is making the house comfortable but not chi-chi. Although our communications rely heavily on mime and the Oxford Hachette dictionary, we are confident that all will be well. (We all relaxed when Dominic, thinking glazed interior doors a ludicrous affectation, responded to my request for them with a dismissive "bouffe" and characteristic Gallic shrug. Reckless with champagne. laughed "bouffe quoi?", which led to a feeble joke about mad "bouffe." disease, agreement on the door issue and a general sense that we would manage to understand each other somehuw.)

We did read around the subject but relied mainly upon our instincts - ask me next year if this was wise. According to friends who have secund homes in France. we have been lucky: we were introduced to a good agent who in turn organised a builder, bank and insurance company: we found our paradis remarkably quickly; and there have been no horrors so far.

e remain enchanted by our house and channed by the people we meet of it. When I was first looking for Dominic's house 13 approached a rubicund, older man wearing a shabby beret and trunsers held up by twine. I explained that we were completely lost whereupon he smiled and replied.
"No one is truly lost in this life." Let's not wax too romantic, though: I still can't drive from Montreuil to the house without taking at least one wrong turn.

STEPHANIE LEWIS French Property News: UIST447 1834. Northern & Western France Properties 0181-801 1750. Buying & Restoring Old Property in France by David Everett (Robert Hales) includes invaluable French/English glossary of building terms. A Complete Guide to Buying a Home in France by Vivienne Menkes-Ivry (Simon and Schuster) gives cleur practical information.



This three-bedroom, stone-built cottage in the Charente is on the market at £40,000

Prime time for Channel vision

H ouses on the other side of the English Channel have never been so cheap, thanks to the strength of the pound against the French franc, now worth almost ten to the pound, having gained a third in value during the past

The French domestic housing market is still in the doldrums, prices having fallen in some areas by 30 to 40 per cent since 1990. Owners are keen to sell and prospective purchasers can often negotiate up to 15 per cent off asking prices. In many rural areas British buyers are the driving

Vivien Bridge, of Northern & Western France Properties. says the British market for French property is booming: Many Britons are crossing the Channel to buy weekend retreats. Others are looking to settle in France, often for retirement. With a strong pound, it makes sense to buy now. The future for sterling is uncertain, with the imminent arrival of the European monetary unit in nine months." There are bargains to be Cheryl Taylor

offers a guide to the places, prices and pitfalls that

await Britons looking to buy a

home in France

had in lower Normandy, a 90minute drive from the ferry port of Caen. Rock-bottom on the price chart is a twobedroom village house near Domfront for £4,500. It has a new roof and a septic tank, but needs another £5,000 to make it habitable. The UK agent is

Authentic France. The same agent is asking E21,500 for a renovated two-bedroom stone-built house with a secluded garden, close to Avranches and the beaches

of Mont St. Michel. English buyers happy to make the long ferry crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff or Portsmouth to St Malo can find a home at less than half

the price they would pay on the southwest coast of Eng land. You can pick up a habitable stone-built cottage in Brittany for less than £20,000, though most will

need updating.

Domus Abroad is asking £46,000 for an attractive sixbedroom, four-bathroom, mill house in good condition, 30 minutes' drive inland from St Malo and the beaches of the Côte d'Armor. It comes with a two-acre garden, a small forest and a meadow, bordered by a

Further west at Huelgoat, a few miles inland from the Côte de Granite Rose (pink granite coast) with its small bays and white sandy beaches, you can buy a two-bedroom character cottage in a one-acre garden for £21,000, through Northern & Western France Properties. Prices are lower in central Brittany, about two hours' drive from Roscoff or St Malo.

Small market towns and villages, such as Ploemel and Josselin, about 40 minutes' drive inland from the south coast, have plenty of old terraced houses for renovation, priced from £15,000. For a a cheap rustic retreat,



The romantic notion of idyllic summer days spent at a second home in the French countryside has become easier to attain thanks to the franc's decline, and British buyers have not been slow to capitalise. With the euro arriving in nine months, there may never be a better time to buy

an unspoilt farming region. about 90 minutes' drive south of St Malo. A habitable threebedroom country house with thick stone walls, a slate roof. heamed ceilings and an open fireplace can be had for £12,000. The agent is Northern & Western France Properties.

S outh of Angoulème, the capital of the Charente, the houses are bigger and the weather is warmer. This is the Cognac area of France, six hours from Waterloo by Eurostar/TGV, where you can buy a three-bedroom country cottage, with thick honey-stone walls, for £30,000 to

£40,000. A huge stone farmhouse for conversion, with numerous outbuildings and a few acres, can had from

£50,000. The Haute-Vienne is a littleknown region close to the Dordogne but half the price. Stick to the southern border of the Dordogne for a warmer. drier climate. The French. Property Shop is asking £18,000 for part of a small rural hamlet near Rochechouart. The price includes three old stone houses - two are habitable, one for restoration - plus barns and an acre

of land. Allow another £20,000 to restore the third house. There have been some

dramatic price reductions in the Lot-et-Garonne south of the Dordogne. A restored fivebedroom period house in a village near Puymirol was on the books of the French Property Shop in January 1997 at Fr530,000, then costing £70.500. Now, it is priced at Fr400,000, about £40,000. A similar house in Surrey would cost £250,000.

The Languedoc, next door to Provence and bordered by the Mediterranean, is the poor man's Riviera. The weather is hot and dry and property prices are much cheaper than on the Côte d'Azur. For £10,000 you can buy an 18square metre studio in a modern block on the Mediterranean at Cap d'Agde, a lively harbourside resort, between Sète and Béziers.

A similar waterfront flat around St Tropez could cost £100,000, according to Nigel Paige of Authentic France, which has a selection of studies. flats and townhouses for sale at Cap d'Agde. One-bedroom flats with a balcony or garden on the seafront cost from £15,000 to £20,000; E35,000 for those with a mooring alongside.

THE STREET

The notaire is a public official who ensures that the sale transaction is carried out in accordance with French law. One notaire can represent both parties in the transaction, but purchasers who wish to ensure their interests are protected can appoint their

Some British-based solicitors can advise on French conveyancing. Most charge between £130 and £250 to vet the preliminary agreement. then by the hour for subsequent advice. On average, the fee is likely to be £600 to £800 for the entire transaction. Buyers pay a deposit of 10 per cent



Set in two-and-a-half acres of gardens, this two-bedroom house near the River Dordogne is on sale at about £48,600

of the purchase price on signing the preliminary contract compromis de vente.

All conveyancing costs, including notary fees and taxes. amounting to 10-12 per cent of the purchase price, plus the 6-8 per cent for the estate agent the cheaper the property the higher the percentage), must be paid by the purchaser.

If you sell your French home within two years of purchase you must pay 33.6 per cent of the profit in tax. Keep any receipts for repairs, as these can be set against your final tax bill. The longer you hold on to your property, the less tax you pay.

WHERITANCE

f you own a property in I France, a French will is vital. Although an English will is valid in France it has to be proven in a French court before it can be put into effect. If it does not conform to the French rules of inheritance, it may not be enforceable. French inheritance laws ensure that certain members of your family (but not spouses) have an absolute right to inherit a part of your estate. Should a spouse die. their half of the house does not automatically pass to the survivor, even if that wish was

specified in a will. if you have one child, half of your estate must go to him or her. If you have two children. they each get a third, and so on. This could cause problems for the spouse, particularly if the children were from a husband's previous marriage. If you have no children, the first claim on your estate is

your parents. There are ways around French sucession rules, but expert legal advice is essential.

 Authentic France, 01258 821,772: Northern & Western France Properties (see above): The French Property Shop, 01892 852449: English solicitus specialising in French conveyancing: Anthony Wilkin of Thrings & Long #11225 449444) and Stephen Smith of Fretys Solicitors (U)473 232121).



THE SCOTTISH estate (above) belonging to the late Roger brothers, famed for their art and furniture collection, has been sold for £2 million by agents Langley Taylor. Dundon-Nell, a 33,500-acre estate near inverness, has a laird's house and landscaped gardens, along with deer forest and trout fishing. Bunny and Alan Rogers died last year.

THE house lived in by post-Marxist political scientist Harold Laski (right) from 1926 until his death in 1950 is for sale for £750,000 through agents Chesterton's. The historic four-storey Georgian town bedrooms, a spacious drawing room, and a blue Heritage plaque on the

THE Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg are selling their south France holiday home La Romane for EL83 million through agents John Taylor. Five minutes from the village of Biot near Nice and 15 minutes from the coast. the property includes a main house, a small chapel which has been converted to a guest house, and a three-room staff cottage. The 'Grand Duke" (right), otherwise known as the Duke of Masa or the Prince Bourbon-Palmer, was a colonel in the Irish Guards and is married to Princess Josephine Charlotte of Belgium.



SMART MOVES



TORY MP Bill Cash is letting the Gate House adjoining his 14th-century Shropshire home through agents Blandings. The twobedroom, two-bathroom stone tower rises out of a magical garden, just far. enough away from the main house to ensure privacy. Mr Cash and wife Biddy have recently renovated their home.

RACHEL KELLY



A contemporary garden would be an ideal tribute to the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, Barbara Abbs writes

Memorial fit for a modern princess



Angular bench used by Mr West

the idea of recreating a historic garden as an appropriate setting for Kensington Palace is a good one. It should be done. Whether it should be a memorial to the always-modern Diana, Princess of Wales, is another question.

Among those who feel that the

late Princess would be more fittingly commemorated by something unmistakably contemporary are several members of the Society of Garden Designers. It was about the time the society was holding a conference, entitled "Order and Adventure [in garden design]", that a letter appeared in The Times suggesting that the memorial garden be designed at Kensington Palace by an art historian, albeit one who is also a serious and talented gardener.

Delegates to the conference had heard a lecture by Dr Louisa Jones on the state of garden design in France and one on the work of the Belgian designer Jacques Wirtz and his company by his son, Peter. The public parks of Kathryn Gustafson, the landscape architect, the exciting private garden in France of the late Nicole de Vesian and the pictures of Wirtz designs all over Europe created moods of exhilaration and depression in the audience.

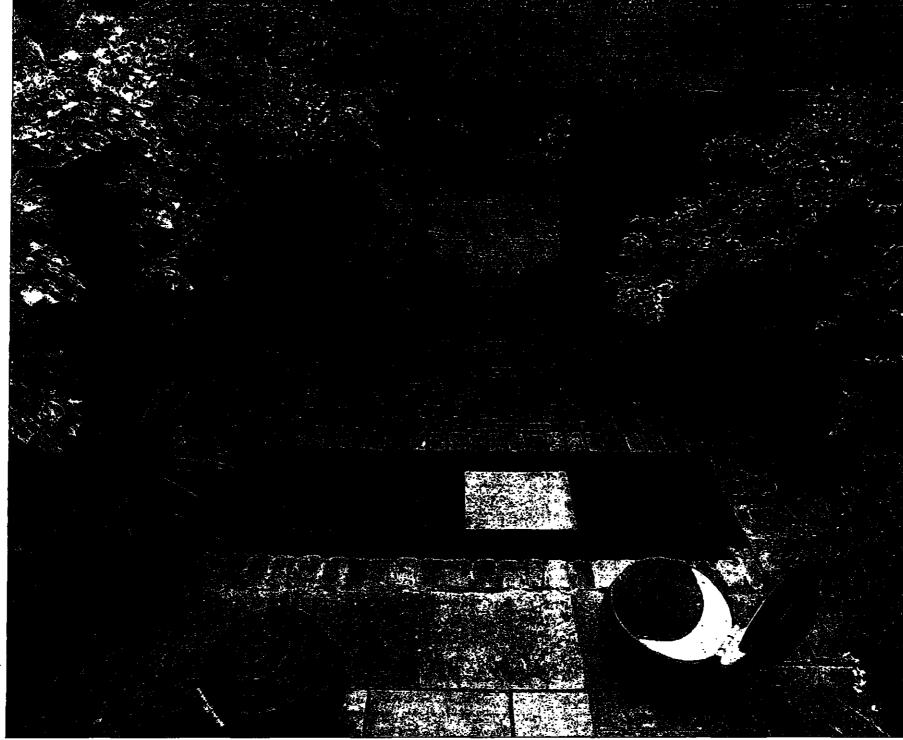
They drooled over sculptural nedges following the contours of ne landscape, over architectural cascades and light-hearted fountains that could not have been designed in any other period except today. Even motorway reservations attracted plaudits.

Then they came down to earth. Patrons in Britain, public or private, only rarely ask for modern design. Our designers could do it and would do it, but complained. that so often they were asked to do Gertrude Jekyll pastiches or historical reconstructions.

The British have a love affair Of the two bases gardens in Britain, one is modernist architect Charles Jencks. and the other, Little Sparta, is closed to the public because the local planning department has no idea of what a modern garden is.

ne designer who passionately believes in the modern garden is Jill Billington. She designed exciting small gardens in London. but longs to be asked to mastermind broad acres. She describes her style as contemporary minimalism. Sensitivity to the site and to the owners and a lack of gimmicks produces gardens that are easy to live with.

One commission, in Hampstead, was for a courtyard in front of



In his Teddington garden, designer Cleve West has put a garden shed almost centre stage. The roof, covered in grass, is used to create an arch that is ecological, dramatic and fun

The

British

public is

not given

the chance

to see

really

modern

landscape

design'

glass-walled studio containing one or two matic modern echoed in the side and spiky grasses and bold evergreens are planted in the surrounding penbles. Ms Billington is philosophical. People come to gardening from

viewpoints and I realise that only a minority will ever be interested in the sort of garden I'd like to design, she says. There are several reasons why this minority is smaller here than in Europe or the United States. Many gardeners live in older houses and feel that a modern

many different

A Jill Billington design uses slabs of Cumbrian green slate

design would not look right. Paul Cooper, who is based in Wales but does much of his design work in London, says that although many London houses are elegant and traditional at the front, they can be extremely ugly, "all plumbing and London brick", at the back. There is

no reason to stick to the safety of tradition.

More importantly, institutions in the UK are timid when it comes to commissioning landscape architects and designers. The public is not given the opportunity to be-come comfortable with really modern landscape design.

In France, Kathryn Gustafson was commissioned by the small town of Terrasson-la-Villedieu to design a public park while Jacques Wirtz and his team are involved in the re-design of the Tuileries Gardens in Paris. The Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire is full of the most way-out gardens and people flock to see them.

r Cooper could compete with the most avant-garde European designer. His constructivist garden, using glass, stainless steel and plastic, and containing orange and black flowers, caused a sensation at the Chelsea Flower Show a few years ago. Unfortunately, it did not appear to advantage against the French Formal Garden, the Old Abbey Garden and the reconstruction of a Victorian greenhouse that were popular that year. Chelsea is really about horticulture while Mr Cooper's work can be better described as exterior design.

One of his recent commissions has been to design a garden for a modern house at Golders Green. Here, a tiny damp garden, surrounded by huge, gloomy conifers. has a lighting system, walls covered in white foam panels,



Mr West mixes simple, geometric plans and unusual materials

transparent screens and projected images. The garden changes its character from hour to hour. Seats are suspended 12 feet off the ground so that the owners can sit in

This year, Mr Cooper's garden at the Chelsea Flower Show will be based on paintings; not the nostal-gic watercolours of Helen Allingham or even the Impressionists, but the much bolder in-yourface paintings of the Fauves and

Kandinsky. Cleve West is a designer who combines wit and style with a feeling for the rhythms of nature. In his own garden, a recreation of his award-winning project at Hamp-ton Court Palace Flower Show a few years ago, the garden shed almost takes centre stage. The roof, covered with flower-studded grass, extends over the path and is supported by timber uprights creating an arch and focal point that is

ecological, dramatic and fun. Both Ms Billington's and Mr West's designs are attractive to owners who like gardening. You can potter about with plants and arrange, as they do, bold groups of contrasting foliage such phormiums, acanthus and the Japanese loquat, Eriobotrya japonica, or subtle colour schemes.

Both designers also use simple, geometric plans and unusual materials. Ms Billington has paved a garden with wonderful slabs of flame-textured green slate from Kirkstone quarry in Ambleside. In his garden, Mr West used granite setts that seemed to float on water. Imagine combining some of these ideas with a water cascade and the sort of trick fountains that children play in that the designers have used in France. Now that truly would capture the spirit of the People's

 Jill Billington can be contacted on 0181-886 0898, Paul Cooper on 01544 230374 and Cleve West on 0]81-977 6470. The Society of Garden Designers is at 6 Borough Road. Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 6BD (0181-974 9483). ● Jill Billington's latest book, Really Small Gardens, is published by Quadrille/Royal Horticultural Society. The Chelsea Flower Show will be

manure. If the only mulch you can offer is something

held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea,



Jane Owen finds

order is key in a Feng Shui garden

hen is a garden not a garden? John Brookes's "outside room" of the Sixties has been translated into a dramatic architectural picture or sculpture, where plants are almost an afterthought

At one end of the garden spectrum stand Jekyll, Hobbouse, Lloyd and all the other great plantsmen and women. At the other is a growing band of architects and designers from David Hicks to Sir Roy Strong, Maggie Keswick and Charles Jencks, who use monocultural plantings to bring drama and elegance to a landscape rather than flowers and leaf pattern to create the gentle prettiness associated with tradition

al English gardens.

John Wyer, who designed the dramatic central London courtyard pictured below, is one of the new breed of garden makers. Although he trained as a landscape architect at Manchester, he is heavily influenced by Chinese gardens. Such is his enthusiasm for China that he once cycled all the way there. He visited a variety of Chinese gar-dens, studied Feng Shui, and now recreates such gardens from London to Taiwan.

But that only partly explains this garden. As Mr Wyer points out, it akes a client with daring and imagination to put into effect such a bold scheme.

The client is a European businessman, determined to remain anonymous for the purpose of this exercise, with an interest in Zen, Feng Shui and Eastern mysticism. He is also a perfectionist, which is why this garden is relatively high maintenance — a team primps and preens it for several hours every week — despite the simplicity of the

"The first rule of Feng Shui is that there should be no clutter. Good design reflects that idea anyway, but this client likes his garden kept so that not a leaf is out of place," Mr Wyer says.

His brief took three years of altered plans and fine tuning before it was eventually built last June. "The client wanted a garden that could be looked at rather than used. But the plot is dark and dank, it faces north and it is overlooked on all sides by tall buildings. So we used Feng Shui to overcome these problems. It is a matter of balancing the yin and the yang and controlling the 'chi' or energy flow through the garden."

n Feng Shui it is believed that wealth and health is ensured by having water flowing towards the house, so a water feature was installed. However, getting the water surface to be seen to be moving (crucial in fulfilling the Feng Shui idea) needed a far more powerful pump than anyone had bargained for.

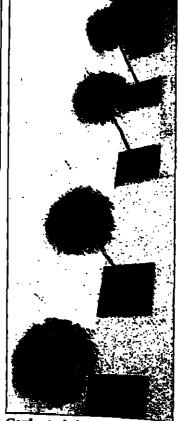
Portuguese laurel lollipops have been dipped into simple, round shapes, a theme echoed in the curve of the laurel leaves and the rounded river-washed marble chippings on the garden floor, which give the area a light, almost airy feel.

There are five elements in Feng Shui - water, fire, soil, metal and wood. So the red wall is fire and it helps to counteract the negative flow of energy caused by this garden facing north. The beds are edged with stainless steel and the wood comes from the trees."

The box hedging at the end of the garden has been squared off and clipped into a proper hedge shape.

There is a synergy between many of the principles of Feng Shui and garden design. In the end, a garden has to blend calmness and energy. Like the energy of the wind rushing across water with the calm someone feels when they sit in a

Although, should anybody attempt to sit in the garden, I think they would be tidied away in case they interrupted the chi flowing through it.



Garden took three years to create



Paul Cooper created a "hanging garden" with white foam panels for this Golders Green plot



STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Last year I had an outbreak of big bud on blackcurrant bushes, and removed all the infected buds. How can I prevent a recurrence? - 1. Howard. Cheltenham, Gloucester-

Big bud is a problem A Big but is a promises caused by tiny mites infesting the buds, causing them to become swollen and

rounded during the winter. Eventually, they dry on the plant and fail to grow. The mites also spread blackcurrant virus. You are correct to remove all infected buds when they can be clearly identified in late winter, but this will not eradicate the problem. If you feel this year it is under control, fine otherwise, pull out the

bushes after fruiting and replace them next winter.

I have had the blue climber Solanum crispum 'Glasnevin' for the past nine years on a southfacing garage wall, in an 18in deep border abutting a concrete patio. For the first few years, it flowered well, but now it flowers little, and grows little. The roots do not appear to be very deep in the soil. How do I rejuvenate it, do l replace it? — S. Conry, Coventry.

A Thin borders under south walls are always

dry and hungry. However good the preparation of the soil at the time of planting, plants and especially vigor-ous climbers eventually run out of steam. Roots come to the surface in search of what scraps of nutrition and moisture might come their way. I would thin out the top

growth by 80 per cent in March, leaving just a framework of the main stems and some younger shoots coming from them. Then give it a good dressing of bonemeal, and a generous mulch over its root area of rich, but properly rotted, compost or

ornamental rather than nutritious, such as cocoa shells, then you need to give a richer dressing of artificial fertiliser underneath. Either way, I would give the plant a fortnightly can of liquid feed this year. That way it will not lack for water, and you will be sure of getting it to take up some goodness

● Write to Garden Answers. Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St. London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned

Great for work, rest and plays

ME AND MY GARDEN: JOHN MORTIMER

is wife is shooting and hunting in Devon. John Mortimer is alone at the home he has inhabited all his life, surrounded by the 50 acres, three cultivated, where Voyage Round My Father was set and filmed. He has a flat in London but never uses it, preferring, after a day in town, to glide back to this secluded end of the Chilterns, near Henley-on-Thames.

"When my father built this house, in the Thirties, his idea was to have a small house and a big garden. The house is designed to look out over the garden in all directions. I couldn't live anywhere else. The whole thing is very important to my life," he says.

When his father made the garden from a field, he had several gardeners. Now there is one, Peter Hayes, who is also the Mortimers' driver.

Running west from the house there was once a long herbaceous border. This has been replaced by a low-maintenance shrubbery with a path down the centre. Behind this are two deep pits filled with old beech trees and holly scrub.

As a boy, Mr Mortimer turned one of these into an amphitheatre where he would put on his own olays. "Because I was an only child I did all the parts. I did Hamlet, King Lear and Othello - and I used to duel with myself and murder myself as well.

This area is called Gravelly Wood, so I suppose these were gravel pits at one time. It's a good place for children. I've got grandchildren older than my youngest." says Mr Mortimer who married twice, both times to a woman called

At the end of the shrubbery walk is a semi-circular white bench, which has seen better days, backed by a semi-circle of yew which has been cut right back after years of neglect. Fifty metres or so further on is a wilderness seething with the first spears of thousands of daffodils and planted with specimen trees, including acers, azaleas, a strawberry tree (Arbutus unedo), magnolias, a contorted hazel, and some flowering cherries. "When it's in flower this one looks like a crouching Japanese wrestler," he

says of one old cherry. Mr Mortimer's father planted most of the trees here but was helped by his son (an infrequent event) to plant a large evergreen. Eucryphia glutinosa. The main garden at the front of the house,



John Mortimer's parents

with views across rolling beechwoods, is dominated by a tree of heaven at the centre of the lawn and, to one side, a magnificent blue cedar planted for George V's silver

"And here is the pool that I put in." Mr Mortimer says. "My mother would have thought it was

horrendously vulgar."

Beyond the pool area a giant green and yellow mobile, called onversation Piece", nods in the wind. It was commissioned by Mrs Mortimer from John Piper's grandson. Henry, and made in the colours of the house (which has a green roof and yellow woodwork) for her husband's last birthday.

all tapestry hedges, woven in with ivy, separate this area from the kitchen garden, which is fertilised with manure from the stables. There are strawberries, sprouts, leeks, spinach, red lettuce, soft fruit, a pear and knobbly old cordon apples planted in the 1930s which produce a huge mound of cooking

"Everything seemed to grow more when I was a child," Mr Mortimer says. "And I don't seem to be able to grow all the things that my father grew, such as asparagus, nectarines and peaches.

The garden is not as grand as it was. I spend lots of money at garden centres and I always listen Gardeners' Question Time, but if you did all the things they said you'd never get anything else

Pots of cymbidium orchids, at



John Mortimer with his orchids. "I'm quite good with flowers," says the author whose role in the garden is mostly supervisory

one end of a heated greenhouse in the kitchen garden, will move into Mr Mortimer's study as they flower, or be put outside during the height of summer. Two are in flower, one white, one green, beside a double pink amaryllis and some white hyacinths in his study.

"I'm quite good with flowers." he says, confessing that his role in the garden is mostly supervisory. "I don't like this upper-class white flower garden idea. If you look at the great painters, like Matisse, they use the colours of dahlias clashing with each other." Flowers in the round conserva-

tory, on the garden side of the house, are a testament to this mauve and pink fuchsias (incredi-bly, in full flower in January) clash with a red camellia and pinky-red Christmas cactus. The white gera-niums look positively subdued. Beyond the garden proper are

the areas of beechwood bought by Mr Mortimer to preserve the trees, field of rare wild orchids. "strange butterflies and wonderful



Voyage Round My Father was filmed at the Mortimers' house

snails", and bluebells. "I found out about the orchids from a poacher. who appears a lot in Paradise Postponed," he says.

Apart from using the garden for things to avoid writing. I stop parties and for children visitors, writing at noon, every day, even

Mr Mortimer sleeps on the lawn on hot days after the day's work is complete. He gets up at 4am, "then I bath, breakfast and do all sort of

Christmas. I'm writing a novel about a New Labour MP, a very sticky character, set in Paradise Postponed country." Is he getting at the party he once espoused? "It's embarrassing for me to live under a Government which you have thoroughly approved of and then find you do not agree with." he says.

There is a quote I've used in my current novel which says 'All governments of any period provide comedy for the discerning mind and I agree. Anyway, I don't want to preach about that, I just want to write about it."

Tony Blair is no longer a close friend, but Neil Kinnock remains one, and regularly stays with the Mortimers - entertaining everyone in the party with his renditions of Elvis Presley numbers — when they rent a place in Tuscany.

JANE OWEN

• The paperback edition of Felix in the Underworld by John Mortimer was published last month by Penguin, E6.99.



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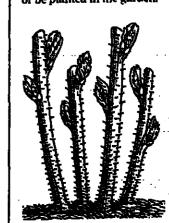
Prune the butterfly bush Buddleia davidii hard back to a framework of older wood at 2ft-4ft, Shoots will already be starting to grow, both low down in the bush on older wood, and at the ends of the branches. Cut back to the size you require, even if it leaves the plant

Complete the planting of new raspberry canes, putting them in shallowly loin apart, with 6ft between the rows. Cut them down to 9in. A generous mulch of old compost will suppress weeds and reduce the need for vigorous hoeing between the rows, which can induce sucker formation.

■ Established raspberries will benefit from feeding now to ensure strong canes for next year. Sulphate of ammonia is a cheap source of artificial nitrogen, and half an ounce to the square yard will give the plants a lift. Sulphate of putash, applied at the same rate, is also beneficial for fruit production on this year's

In more sheltered and well-drained soils, begin outdoor sowings in situ of broad beans, early carrots, parsnips, summer spinach and ruby chard.

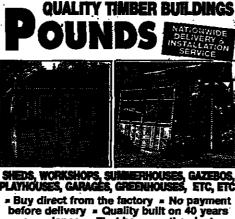
Pots of narcissi or hyacinths can be stood in a light, cool place to die down, or be planted in the garden.



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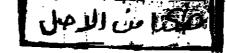
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Foluntary gardening

A new crop of volunteers is transforming Britain's gardens. Sue Corbett meets them

these days means more than country house party guests working off the effects of city indulgence.

Town people are always good at slashing and burning," says David Edwards, who gardens at Olivers, near Colchester, Essex. They love it because they cannot light a fire in their London gardens. But the danger is that some of your iriends are not much more competent than 12-yearolds, and that can take some managing."

But the new breed of voluntary garden helper does in-spire confidence. At the University of Bristol Botanical Garden, superintendent Nichplas Wray works closely with a learn of volunteers - some of them retired, but many much younger, seeking work experience. They not only have an interest in gardening but good plant knowledge, so we can place them in areas where they advise visitors on the culture of the plants," he says. "It's not sufficient to have many pairs of willing hands. They have to be self-motivated and pre-pared to do the work. This garden covers five-and-a-half acres and some of the borders are bigger than most people's back gardens. So, on any one afternoon, all a volunteer may do is weed one border. But if they come for a period of time they get a good range of jobs and maybe some plum ones."

For some volunteers, this sort of work is just a beginning. If volunteers have been

Many hands, light work

Town

and 🐇

HOMES & GARDENS

Heligan's hot manure beds.

for this sort of ini-

tiative is John-Michael Kenn-aways 1,200-acre-estate at Escot

Ottery St Mary, where the star vol-

herself as a very senior

citizen", takes charge of weed-ing Mr Kennaway's four her-baceous borders, despite

having a large garden of her own. She volunteered out of

the blue, says the delighted

Mr Kennaway, "and comes

"I love it," says Mrs P. "Part

of the attraction is the beauty

once a week from Easter."

unemployed for some time, Mr Wray can reduce their fees at the garden's night school.
"We've had three volunteers in the past three years who've not only successfully completed our night school but gone on to gain places at college and are now in full-time employment in gardens," Mr Wray says. work experience from local

Wendy Brewin, who co-ordinates the voluntary help at the Lost Gardens of Heligan at people Pentewan in Cornwall, holds out are good hope of similar. career prospects. at slashing Three of the volunteers who have been helping to re-store Heligan's fine burning' old gardens since day one are now on

the paid staff.
They've become Heligan ites, part and parcel of the gar-dens, she says. "And as they have been seen on television. working here, they even have to sign autographs for

Those who can be on site for a week or more are given as much variety as possible, and may even find themselves collecting and laying manure of the place, and the fact that says Mr Ayres.

whole families come here. And it is interesting when other keen gardeners come round as we learn from each other. There is a nucleus of people who have a wonderful lack of materialism." Perhaps it is something in the Devon air. If people don't volunteer, Mr Kennaway is not too shy to ask. When Swampy and friends set themselves up in

friends set themselves up in Heligan taps every availhis park just over a year ago in the protest against the Exeter able source of volunteers from the British Trust for to Honiton A30 dual carriage Conservation Volunteers. way now being carved through the middle of the estate, Mr Kennaway asked them if they would help him plant 1,000 mixed English hardwoods heretically which has been clearing a Georgian ride of fallen trees and branches, to children on schools and unihardwoods - beeches; oaks and chestmats. They said: versity students "Yes, certainly, as long as you show us which way is up.' I thought ffley were joking but they weren't." on middle-year Another garden that rivals Heligan

> een gardeners who are members of the Riches of Escot also look after the estate's parkland, tackling anything from laying paths to restoring ice ponds and an icehouse. Such is the public enthusi-

unteer, known to everyone as "Mrs P" and describing asm for getting involved in other people's gardens that a National Trust head gardener. Richard Ayres, has organised two hands-on master classes at Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire. On Thursday, April 2, at 6pm, herbaceous borders are the topic. "And I shall have tools there for anyone who wants to have a go at planting or dividing,"



Nicholas Wray with volunteer gardeners at the University of Bristol Botanical Garden. "People have to be self-motivated"

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occasion I have put up a notice inviting help with deadheading rhododendrons, but the only response I've ever had was: 'I'd love to do it but I live in Lancashire.' If anyone more local presented themselves I

 David Edwards, Olivers, Olivers Lane, Calchester, Essex CD2 OHJ.
 University Botanical Garden, North Road, Bristol BSS 3FF (0117-973 36E).
 British Tress for Conservation Volunteers, 3S Marry's Street, Wallingford, Ozon OKIO OEU (1449 23976).
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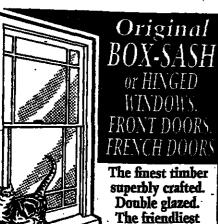
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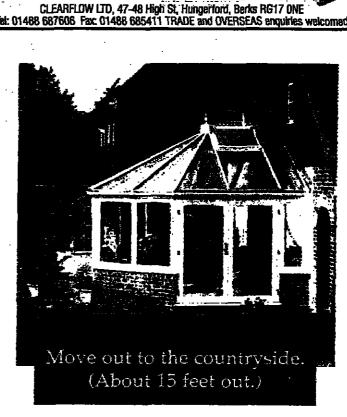
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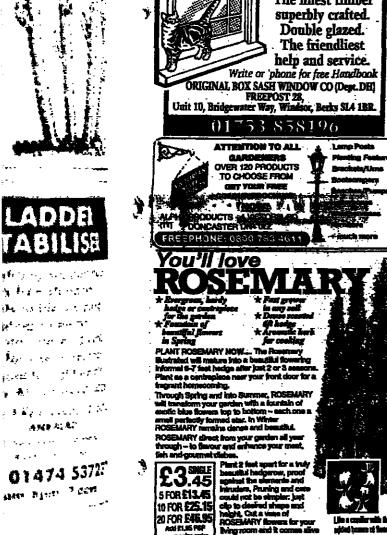
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When baby cries, read all about it

Emma Mahony selects her favourites

from the numerous mother-and-baby books

If they had a problem with their baby in the 1960s, all they did was reach for Dr Benjamin Spock. On his advice we were left to cry ourselves to sleep at night, scream the place down before our next four-hour feed, and kept in quiet nurseries to avoid "over-stimulation". What is now diagnosed as colic in the early evening was then known as the baby's "crying time". and the longed-for early smiles were called "wind".

We modern mothers are victims of information overload. Conflicting advice is flung at us from every direction - check out the motherand-baby section in any bookshop and you will find it groaning under the weight of self-professed experts in the field of motherhood. Flick through the manuals and one will tell you never to have your child in bed with you, while another threatens lifelong estrangement if you do not. Let the baby tell you when it is hungry, says one guide. feed them at set times only, says another, smack the baby if it is naughty, never hit your child; at six months babies are quite able to recognise simple words, do not even attempt to teach your child to read before the age of three. Whatever you do you are going to be wrong.

Many of the recent generation of children were brought up on Penelope Leach's Baby and Child. Written for the stay-at-home mother, it is full of smug solutions such as this one for separation anxiety: "It is amazing how much one can accomplish with a baby on one's hip: indeed, the author became so accustomed to this way of life that she became convinced she had mislaid a child and started a frantic search before discovering that he was, and all along had been, in that accustomed position." I have tried this one; it does not work.

er new updated version. The New Penelope Leach — Your Baby and Child, loses none of her know-it-all advice but does at least recognise working parents, even if she still does like to keep them in their place. When one mother despairs of "comforting a baby who keeps crying, entertaining one who can neither sleep nor read a book", Leach wastes no time in telling the mother: "If you really didn't try to meet newborn needs as in person - you'd have reason to leel guilty. Thus is your child, after all; you're responsible for her and she's dependent on you." So there.

For a different approach mother rather than baby-oriented - Sheila Kitzinger, the other high priestess of babyhood, has written The Year After Childbirth: surviving the first year of motherhood. If you can turn a blind eye to the



■ The Girlfriend's Guide to ______ Curyriena's Guide to Pregnancy by Vicki Irvine (Bloomsbury, £14.99). The only funny book on pregnancy ever written. ★★★

■ What to Expect — the first year (Simon and Schuster, E12.99). Excellent reference with a clear month-by-month

■ The New Penelope Leach: Your Baby and Child (Penguin £15.99). Baby-oriented and a bit smug. ★★★

■ Sheila Kitzinger: The Year after Childbirth (OUP, E9.99). Mother-oriented and easy to

🖪 Dr Miriam Stoppard: Complete Baby and Child Care (Dorling Kindersley, £16.99), Best for health, worst for layout. ★★

■ How Not to Be a Perfect

Mother by Libby Purves (HarperCollins, £5.99). Witty, anecdotal and sympathetic to the working mother. ■ The NCT book of Pregnancy, Birth & Parenthood (OUP,

£10.99). Technical and ■ Natural Childhood: A Practical Guide to the first seven years (Gaia, £14.99).

Interesting intellectual theories in an impenetrable style. * ■ The Complete Book of Pregnancy and Baby Care (Lorenz, £16.95). Pretty pictures and little text. *

■ Baby Signs: How to talk to your baby before your baby can talk (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.99). An idea unworthy of being published in book form.

photographs of women in labour and hurry through the pages on birth as the ultimate sexual experience, this book is sensibly written best you can — by delegation if not and tackles taboo subjects, such as sex after childbirth, which others

tend to ignore.

Complete Baby and Child Care by Dr Miriam Stoppard rounds off Macbeth's trio of female gurus. Her information on health is good but the format lets her down. Lumping Young baby, Older baby, Toddler and Pre-school together in chapters titled "Feeding and nutrition" makes it difficult to read.



My favourite book is What to Expect in the First Year, published by Simon and Schuster. During pregnancy many women buy its sister title, What to Expect When You're Expecting, for the month-bymonth drawings of what the foetus looks like. The same format works well in the first year. Each chapter is prefaced by "What your baby may be doing" with a helpful section on "What you may be concerned about" dressed up as quotes from concerned parents (Month live: "My daughter has been pulling at her ear a lot. She

I'm worried that she might have an ear infection"). About 200 pages cover common illnesses, including psychological problems ("I'm jealous of the time my husband spends with our daughter"). If your baby wakes up with conjunctivitis, this is the book you want in the house.

If it is loony books you want, then Baby Signs — How to talk to your baby before your baby can talk is good for a giggle. Aimed at mothers with babies from eight to 18 months, it promises that if you flap your arms and say "birdie" every

doesn't seem to be in any pain, but time one flies into view, soon your baby will be flapping his own arms when a bird appears. I have been, w trying this in the park and have attracted a lot of puzzled looks particularly from the baby.

> There are many successful: stories from veteran Baby Signers: "When Brandon. was 15 months old, he and his family attended the street market in town. One of Brandon's favourite attractions was the potbellied pig. Because Brandon had a Baby Sign for pig (fingertips

tapping nose) he was able to talk' about this animal." Er, yes. Perhaps a man should have the

last word - the prophet Kahlii Gibran, quoted in Natural Childhood. He says: "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you."

This is a poignant message for those of us who reach for the bookshelf when things go wrong.

Travelling with baby, page 31

Put some fun on the menu

Toddlers can make

wise choices, says Dr

Thomas Stuttaford

ANY RECIPE book that acknowledges children are embryonic gourmets capable of distinguishing individual tastes is to be welcomed Too often nursery food is a featureless bland mush, rich, no doubt, in protein and vitamins, but devoid of the flavours that stimulate a child's sense of smell and taste.

Children, like adults, prefer their food to be tasty and to look appetising. How often has one sat at a table where the child smeared rejected gravy-laden mashed pota-toes on to clothing and around the floor, but has eaten the delicious buttered carrots and pheasant from Uncle George's plate?

Children's meals, as those of adults, are not only a refuelling exercise but should be fun. As Field Marshal Montgomery determ no good commander goes into battle unless victory is certain.

When taking on a toddler at the table, all the odds are on the child's side. They are going to win there is no contest, but the child should not be allowed to glory in their power and manipulate the house. hold. The wise parent never fains battle over the dinner table and any emotion about eating must be erased.

Children shouldn't be coased, harried or threatened; there should be no bribes, punishments or tricks. If the child doesn't eat a totally dispassionate parent should whisk it away and produce some-thing edible but different for the next meal.

Disagreements at mealtimes can mean the child will cat very little and possibly grow up mainour-ished as a consequence.

IT IS ONE of the ironies of late 20th-century life that mainutrition is found both in caring middle class districts of affluent societies. as well as in degressed americity areas and the Third World.

Another rule of a child's diet is that no great emphasis should be placed on any particular foodstuff. We may think that tough, watery swedes or bubble-and-squeak is just what they need, but they may have had their eye on their parents

Research over the years has shown that children, like animals, when left to themselves, pick out a diet which covers the required relative of fair exchely thate and vitations and other trace elements. The mixture may be strange, but it will be full of

: If the adults eat, in a casual way devoid of any teaching intent, meat, fish, beans, peas and fresh fruit, it is quite likely that their children will copy them.

These are the types of food children should be encouraged to eat. It is hard to guess which children will have an inborn sophisticated taste in food - so let them decide, even if they want to put tomato ketchup on the ice-

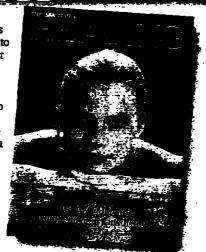
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> eations cartifully selected by The Tages, pagest lies. CHANGING TIMES

Ms Karmel has become to children's food what Delia Smith is to dinner party menus and Jane Asher to party cakes. With sales of more than a million worldwide, she is in second place in The Sunday Times's top ten cookbooks list. So it is that I find myself in the immaculate kitchen of her St John's Wood home, in north London, where she has offered to cook me lunch. We start with a salad and a bright red

dressing called "Dressing for Dinner" made of rice wine vinegar, soy sauce, fresh ginger root, chopped celery and tomato purée. It is one of her daughter's favourites and embodies all the ingredients that explain her success. It is healthy, it looks and tastes good and it can be made in large quantities and kept in the fridge. It is also quick to put together. "As a mother of three I know you can't spend hours in the kitchen, she says. *None of my recipes takes more than half an hour."

hildren's tea-time is not a problem in Annabel Karmel's house. While

most of us reach for the fish

fingers or chicken nuggets, Ms

Karmel's children will be sam-

chive sauce followed by baked

apples and raisins for pudding

her book, The Complete Baby

and Toddler Meal Planner.

- two of the many recipes in

She admits to being obsessed with food now, but it was not always so. Trained as a harpist, it was only after the tragic death of her first child, Natasha, that she decided to rethink her life. "Natasha was diagnosed with a rare brain disease called encephalitis at three months," she says. Five days later she died in Ms



Children will eat healthy — and tasty — food, as an inventive cookbook writer has proved

It doesn't always have to be fish fingers

Table talk: Annabel Karmel with her children Nicholas, left, Lara and Scarlet

Karmel's arms. "It's the most terrible thing to be a mother, and then not to be a mother." Eleven months later she gave birth to Nicholas and decided she could not combine the life of a musician - being away in the evenings and at weekends -- with that of a mother. "Nicholas was an incredibly fussy eater," she remembers. "He would eat only pasta, fruit and ice-cream. After Natasha's death,

I was really worried that he wasn't getting the right things to help him fight infections. But there was nothing out there to help. The healthy food guides were disgusting, and the party food was too fancy. I wanted everyday food for my children." As we tuck in to "Stir Fry for

Small Fry for the main course (a chicken stir-fry with baby sweet corn, beansprouts and soy and oyster sauce), she tells .

me how some children "look at Chinese food in horror. This leads neatly to one of her main rules: get them young. She says most children like black and green olives if fed them early enough. The trick is "not to feed them too much packaged and bottled foods, because it will always taste the same. Heinz tomato soup never varies in flavour, but a real tomato soup will always

taste different because of the

■ To absorb iron found in red meat, lentils, egg yolks,

nice with vitamin C at the same time. ■ Introduce a wide range of flavours before the age of three.

Meals are not a battleground. If the child has not finished in 20 minutes, take the food away. If you say "No dinner, no ice cream". do not give in.

Do not feed low fat yoghurts or milk to

HEALTHY FOODS

Combine foods the baby is not keen on with foods he spinach and wholegrain
spinach and wholegrain
is. Try hroccoli and pea
cereals, the child needs to eat fruit or drink hanana and avocado, chicken and apple. is. Try broccoli and pear. For older children, blend vegetables they do not like into a pasta sauce where they cannot pick them out. If they do not eat fruit.

make it into ice-follies, It is the frequency of eating sugar, rather than the amount of sugar eaten, that rots the teeth. Better to give sweets at the end of a meal. Pure fruit juices and raisins are among the worst candidates.

natural ingredients." Try to encourage this diversity of tastes before the age of three. Ms Karmel has also pio neered some short cuts for those too busy to be boiling carrots and broccoli all day. The most famous is the icecube trick. This involves preparing more food than you need, tipping it into ice-cube trays, freezing it, and then counting out cubes of, say.

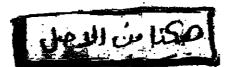
Soup" when you need it.
There is a great misconception about frozen food, which is often frozen two hours after it is picked. Now you compare that to food that has been sitting on the shelf for a while and you can see that frozen food can actually be better than fresh." She hopes one day to bring out a range of frozen foods to prove her point.

Creamy Lettuce and Potato

s we finish with that ultimate nursery food. Louise's Apple and Blackberry Pudding ("the blackberries are frozen, of course), I ask how she comes up with the inspiration for the 200 recipes in her new book. Small Helpings. "I try out everything new on 20 children and if 15 like it, it goes in I often sit up at night thinking about food." Mothers like me. who have to be taught how to make apple puree, are ex-tremely grateful that she does.

EMMA MAHONY

 Annabel Karmel's cookbooks: Baby and Toddler Meal Planner, Baby and Tuddler Coukbook, Small Helpings and Quick Children's Meals are all £10.99 Plus E1.50 pesp per item and can be ordered from: Cooking for Children, 40 Berkeley Square, London WIX SDB at by credit



Put sopi fun of a

Thomas May

THE TIMES WEEKEND - SATURDAY MARCH 7 1998

'It was a painful conversation. I can take a joke about my cooking. Of course I can. But there is such a thing as Going Too Far'

Te nearly didn't make it to the Countryside March, my hip flask of sloe gin and I. It had been a date for ages, ever since my friend Charles rang up and said, "I'm giving the keepers a day's unpaid leave to go marching — this is his idea of a joke — "do you want to come with us?" Not half,

The Countryside Rally, which we went to last year, was as good as a play. I wouldn't miss the march for anything. "Good," said Charles. "Bring some

So for weeks I had been happily planning picnic baskets and wondering what to wear. And I had just settled on smoked salmon sandwiches, a pink suede miniskirt and Blahnik kitten heels when -- disaster!

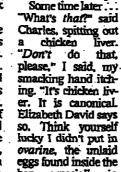
We had. Charles and me, the most tremendous row. This is not the first time we have had a falling out. Almost 15 years ago. I was sitting opposite him at supper when during a lull in the conversation, he absent-mindedly picked up the sugar bowl and emptied it on my

There ensued some years of froideur. But eventually I forgave the old thing -

Charles gets his marching orders

we set off again on the best of terms. Since then, I have hardly had to speak sharply to him at ali. But then, a couple of weeks ago, he

turned up with that expression on his face that means he is expecting dinner. "Come in," I said. "How lovely to see you. Lasagne all right? "Perfect," said Charles, producing from his keeper's pocket an inky bottle of blended claret, Now, I know that he is not a great fan of my cooking - too much garlic and suspect greenery. Not enough swede. He shares this view with Alexander who, offered anything more ambitious than chicken dinosaurs or Thomas pasta shapes, pokes at it disgustedly and says (without even tasting it, which is what kills me about the whole performance): "Too slimy. Too revolting. Take it away." Still, lasagne seemed a safe enough bet shepherd's pie by other means, really. So I got cracking with Elizabeth David's ragu bolognese, while Charles settled



Noel's House Party.

hen, especially in spring, when the hens are laying — bet dering what to do next, when the phone you know all about those, Charlie." rang. It was Katie. "So," she said.

A painful conversation followed. I can "What's the story? Where are we meettake a joke about my cooking. Of course I can. But there is such a thing as Going Too Far. A frost formed as we parted. Some days later, he rang. But it was too late. Having made the effort to clamber

LIFE AND SOUL



to coming down again in time for the Countryside March. When small children take this line, their mummies call it Cutting Off Your Nose To Spite Your Face. Once embarked upon, it is fearfully difficult to give up. So I was sitting

there, on Saturday night, feeling sorry for myself and won-What's the story? Where are we meeting? I'm longing to meet Charles. Is he really as mad as you say? Oh crikey. Of course. I had invited Katie, too. My pretty friend. "Well," I said, "It's like this ..." what to do now. I knew what she was thinking. Katie, like me, is equally unnerved by politics and large crowds of people. Especially if they might shout

"I've never been on an actual demonstration before, said Katie, eventually. The nearest thing was going to hear the choir at Magdalen Tower on May Morning, Still, it seems a bit pathetic not to, doesn't it? When people are coming from Northumberland and Wales and

t was the food that clinched it in the end. Keen cooks (if, in my case, unappreciated), we both, once we'd started to talk about it, found ourselves becoming quite indignant about no brains, no bone marrow, no oxtail, no beef on the bone, no raw milk. "Oh really," said Katie, starting to giggle. "We can't have become politicised, at our age, because we like foxes and foxhounds and

oxiail stew." "Whatever it takes," said I, more certainly than I felt. We seemed to have talked ourselves into it.

Early on Sunday morning I abandoned my suede miniskirt plan ("casual, waterproof dress", advised one newspaper, as though one were off to the Saturday night hop at the Nag's Head) and fell back on something lichencoloured and enveloping. Then I broached the jar of sloe gin that I'd made two years ago. I couldn't imagine there would ever come a better moment to do it, and besides, we might need it to stiffen

We didn't, of course, in the end. No shouting, no slogans, no baton charges, no antis brandishing scaffolding poles. Just a jolly pep talk from a jovial policeman on a Roman-nosed chestnut gelding: "Don't surge forward, ladies and gentlemen. The people behind might think you know something. But you know nothing." And a short, congenial stroll in the sunshine.

"Well," said Katie afterwards, as we sat in the pub drinking pints of Adnams. "I feel almost as though I'd achieved something. But I'm not at all sure that I deserve to feel like that."

During my boring week I was obliged to give a talk

about journalism to a class

seemed like a perfect op-

portunity to bore a captive audience. But I arrived at

the school to find that the

teenagers were aiready

bored out of their skulls.

Then I inadvertently woke them up by admitting most

iournalists were alcoholics and cocaine-addicts. But

then I bored them back to

sleep again by saying that I

had never taken cocaine

and kept my alcohol con-

I quickly learnt that no matter how boring you are.

someone somewhere will

find you riveting. On a

country bus ride. I tried to

bore the driver into a coma

by making crushingly obvi-

said: "Looks like you're going to pick up two more

passengers", the driver laughed as if I'd made a

witty observation and said:

"The more, the merrier." I tried again with: "I think

you'll find you need second

gear for this corner." The

driver winked

at me and

said: "Yes, indeed, second

gear does it

My regime during bore-

week was as

follows: each

day, I awoke

at about 8.15 and had a

breakfast of two hot crum-

every time."

sumption to a minimum.



The will to win shows on the faces of boys during a game of mini-rugby at Kings College Junior School, Cambridge, but there are doubts about the suitability of the sport

The dangers of child's play

t is a noisy touchline scene from the heartland of South Wales rugby. The sky is heavy with A rain and the pitch is a bog. Skewen against Bon Y Maen is the tocal derby fixture: feelings run deep. A centre threequarter is injured and a chorus implores him to return to the fray. "You're not hurt, boy!" shouts a gravelly voice. "Mark your man! Mark your man!" yells a ruddy-faced man in a Barbour.

It is a scene of no particular significance – except that the players in this gladiatorial contest are just 12 years of age.

All this aggression is a long way from the original concept of the sport being played: "mini-rugby". The game was created to give children a gradual introduction to the complicated rules of adult rugby union. An increasingly popular part of family weekend life, it is played at about 1.500 clubs throughout the country by an estimated 100,000 children. It was designed for 6-12 year olds and the emphasis is supposed to be on "fun", with play running across the field to prevent the little ones from exhausting themselves. At the youngest levels there is no tackling and passive versions of the scrum are only introduced when the players are aged a and the line-out when they are II.

But by the time the children are 12 mini-rugby is similar to the real game, which many parents and games teachers think is an unsuitable sport for youngsters. Many argue that rugby is an aggressively confron-tational pastime which shrouds its thuggery under a collection of de-

cent chap" maxims. "Battling it out up front" and petring your confrontation in first are just two of the game's mottoes to justify foul play which can lead to serious injury. Simon Fenn, the Landon Scottish forward, needed 25 stitches after allegedly having part of his ear bitten off by a Bath opponent

cartier this season. At Skewen Park on a muddy Sunday morning things were not as vicious as that. But some of the tackling was uncompromising. The young players, wearing jerseys with Mini-rugby, a game created to give children a gradual introduction to the adult game, is now a popular part of family life. But is it

teaching the right lessons? And is it safe? Fred Redwood investigates



Jones was seriously injured in a Welsh club match and will never play again; his career in medicine is also now in doubt

their sponsors' logos on their backs, gave high-fives as they pranced past their opponents following each try. The fathers on the touchlines bayed for ever greater efforts. So should

children play mini-rugby? Kevin Bowring is the coach of the Wales rugby team. Before taking up his appointment he worked as the sports master at Clifton College in Bristol. He has reservations about the game. "I worry that the game is

being played too competitively too soon. Mini-rugby is an excellent game, with which I am fully involved, but sometimes it is not played in the right spirit. One reason for this is that often rugby matches are not organised in the schools, so boys go to the clubs, instead, to learn the game

There is a danger in this. A good physical education teacher will attempt to inculcate moral and educational values through the physical application of a sport. In other words, if a boy isn't playing within the spirit of the game then he will be pulled up. But if former club players have sole responsibility for teaching youngsters rugby, then the skills may well be effectively taught, but good behav-iour and sportsmanship can go by the board."

Many schools now choose to have nothing to do with coaching rugby. Some teachers maintain that a game in which success is so heavily dependent on the physical ascendency of big children over smaller ones doesn't deserve a place on the

curriculum. Also, a new, professional, profitoriented outlook has replaced the duffel coat-and-scarf amateur ethos. Many lovers of the game don't like it. International match tickets for a father and son used to be easily within the budget of the average man. Stand tickets for one of today's games will set you back at least £30. A hospitality package could cost you - or, more likely, your company - in the region of £700.

Top clubs have learnt their marketing from football and they too now take full advantage of their young supporters, selling them playing strips at inflated prices. In short, the "ruffians' game played by gentle-

men" days are over. There is also the worry of injury. Rugby has claimed 14 lives in the past 25 years and it results in about ten



Fenn discovered the hard way foul play can hurt when he needed 25 stitches after part of his ear was bitten off by an opponent

serious spinal injuries every year. The most recent casualty from the senior ranks was the Wales captain, Gwyn Jones, a student doctor whose future medical cureer is now in doubt after he suffered a serious spinal injury in a club match between Cardiff and Swansea on December He was temporarily paralysed and doctors at first thought he had broken his neck. Jones. 25. will certainly never play rugby again.

So how can youngsters be taught to play the game in the right spirit? Tony Reynolds, the physical education inspector for Hampshire and a rugby enthusiast, agrees with Kevin Bowring that club coaches play a

"Rugby should be taught as an exciting handling game and not as as a full-blooded confrontational battle between two teams," he says. "Most of all, the game should be loosely refereed, instead of from a letter of

the law standpoint.
"Winning and losing should not be all-important and the referee should be able to intervene during the match to offer coaching. It's difficult to do this in front of a partisan crowd but it's vital that the game is played in

this kind of atmosphere." Football has already gained an ugly reputation for its over-competitive young boys' leagues. Sunday morning kickalous now commonly involve a "manager" berating his charges at half-time with Premiership expletives. It is a worrying thought that mini-rugby may be

going the same way.

Tony Reynolds disagrees. The
Rugby Football Union is aware of this danger and it is already working to counter it. Courses are being run for coaches and referees where the real aims of mini-rugby are stressed.

"As regards the problem of overexcited parents, many clubs will now take these people to one side and ask them to calm down or leave. There is even an RFU prize for good crowd behaviour. These initiatives should ensure that rugby maintains its traditional reputation for good sportsmanship."

They are fine sentiments - particularly welcome on a day when there is another round of Five Nations Championship matches. But whether the crowd at a Skewen against Bon Y Maen fixture will ever win a prize for good behaviour is quite another matter. And whether their 12-year-old children should be playing in such a hothouse atmosphere is a question that they should seriously be asking

And there's another thing ...

SEVEN LONG DAYS: AS A BORE

I WAS immensely flattered when my Editor dared me to become a bore for a week. After all, if he'd already thought of me as a bore, he wouldn't have made such a tactless suggestion. Or

Before embarking on my bore-a-thon, I studied more experienced bores in the hope of copying their technique. Few of them stood up to close scrutiny.

Steve Davies, for example, is famously uninterestng, but the way Steve has capitalised on his supposed lack of personality is anything but boring, even if snooker is tedious.

Bores tend to be pedantic and long-winded, like Tony Benn when he says things like: "Of course, they all thought Nye Bevan was mad when he became Labour's Minister for Health in 1945 and even madder when he went on to found the NHS in 1948 . . . " But Tony is reportedly one of the few politicians to have annoyed the Queen Mother, Which in my book

makes him a bit of a lad. In the end. the only truly insipid person I could think of was my old pottery teacher. As well as teaching ceramics, which is an incredibly boring sub-George incredi

his kiln.

bly vain. He'd DAVID BOWKER

series of thin books about pottery, all generously il-lustrated with photos of garine. Sometimes, if hunhimself at work on some awful earthenware monstrosity, or smiling next to of the television for hours

George was far more interested in being a writer than teaching pottery and used to say: "I suppose it must be quite a thrill for you to be taught by a published author."

By an amazing coincidence, I too am a published author. Modelling myself on George. I set to work at once by reading selected extracts from my first novel to a taxi driver during a journey from King's Cross to Victoria. The hapless cabbie tried to put me off. "Yeah? Bet I could write a book. Fings I've seen ..." I quickly silenced him by betting that he couldn't. As we parted, I said: "It must have been quite a thrill for you to give a ride to a published author." The cabbie called me "a stupid

pets covered in Flora mar-

sandwich or soup. (Am I boring you?) AFTER lunch I retired to my study to write some-thing dull. Then I went for a short walk. In the evenings I watched television. ate dinner and went to bed. After four days of this, I realised that there was no

ger persisted, a third

crumpet was deemed nec-

essary. Then I sat in front

with my two-year-old to watch an endless succes-sion of Disney videos.

Lunch was light, either a

difference between my normal existence and my lifeas-a-bore. This depressed me. When I accepted this challenge, I imagined that I lived life on the edge. Now I realise that I am teetering on the brink of total tedium. All I lack is the kile. Nonetheless, it must have been a thrill for you to read an article by a pub-





Simon Cowell has exchanged life in the City for Wildlife Aid

All things wild and wonderful

Simon Cowell was a City broker. Now he tends to injured creatures in his sanctuary, Wildlife Aid. **Derwent May** met him

hannel 5 viewers last night saw the first episode in a striking new 26-part series called *Wildlife* SOS. It is about a refuge in Surrey where thousands of wild creatures. from bats to fallow deer, are nursed back to health, often after terrible injuries, before being released back

into the wild. The refuge is a one-time farmhouse near Leatherhead. It is a remarkable place, run by a remarkable man. Simon Cowell, who is in his late forties, was a commodity broker in the City, but soon after he bought this farmhouse for himself and his family in 1979, he and his wife turned part of it into a small hospital for wildlife.

More and more wounded animals and birds came pouring in, so he became a part-time broker. Then in 1987 he turned his creation. now named Wildlife Aid, into a registered charity and, in 1994, he gave up the City to run it full-time. pay. He says it is all worthwhile for that glorious 30 seconds when he releases a healed creature back to nature.

The main hospital is in an outbuilding. Its most striking feature is the long line of cages - and

In the first cage, there was a feral pigeon that had fallen down a chimney into a fireplace, and flown round the room with a wing on fire. Christine Barrett, the senior supervisor, held it gently and showed me the affected area. It would be a long time before new feathers grew, but the hospital would see it through.

Next was a tawny owl who peered at me through one eye from the dusky depths of its cage. This bird had been hit by a car, it had been badly bruised, an eye had been damaged, and it had lost its sense of balance. It would be fed on dead chicks until it, too, was ready

There was a hedgehog whose stomach had been ripped open by a bull terrier, but whose wound was

I was told of another hedgehog whose prickles had been almost entirely stripped off by a strimmer. Two baby collared doves that had been picked up in a school playground were being fed on milk.

Perhaps the most remarkable animal was a long-eared bat that a cat had been playing with. Barrett opened a large box, inside which this tiny creature, less than three inches long (including its ears), clung to a piece of cloth. She stretched out its wing to show me that on one side it had lost half the membrane that joins the wing-bone to the leg. It had learnt to come



All creatures great and small are cared for at Wildlife Aid, a refuge in Surrey. It is a voluntary concern supported by donations and subscribers worldwide



Wildlife Aid receives 15,000 distress talks a year and there are plants to build a larger centre

down to the floor of its box to eat mealworms — a surprising ability for an animal that feeds entirely on the wing — and the hospital team were confident the membrane

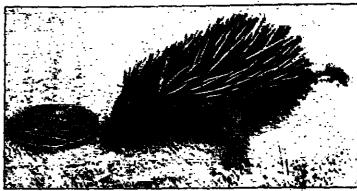
vould grow again. Next I went out to the garden, where there is a pond, and many larger cages for bigger animals to convalesce in. A few Canada geese wandered round the pond: birds that would never be released because they were born with a malformation called "aeroplane wing", and had feathers sticking

out from their wings on both sides. There were some orphaned fox cubs in cages here, and Cowell told me that with the main birth-season imminent there would soon be

owever, he had recently seen a litter of eight sheltering under a piece of wood leaning against a garage wall, and had decided to let them be. The vixen was still about and feeding them, and his policy - right, I believe -

was to leave animals in the wild if they could live naturally. Hazards and danger had to be accepted as part of life.

Also in the grounds are laboratories with X-ray and anaesthetic equipment and other veterinary facilities. Three vets oversee the operations, which have a 60-70 per cent success rate. The vets give their time freely, as does Barrett, who comes in four days a week, and two other women supervisors who share the rest of the week between



A tiny hedgehog is among those being nursed back to health



This bat was mauled by a car

The centre has a further 140 volunteers — and even that is not enough to tend all the victims, who may have to be fed throughout the night, or may stay for many months and need continual cleaning. The centre takes distress calls

day and night.

Cowell is usually on night call, and his involvement seems neverceasing. He has found sponsors for the centre, successfully sought gifts of equipment from hospitals, built up a 2,000-strong, worldwide sub-scribing membership — and even

made the excellent films that are being shown on Channel 5. He is now planning to boild a larger centre : somewhere in Surrey or Sussex. With 15,000 incoming calls a year about animals in trouble, he feels a desperate need to expand.

His motives mix the concerns of conservation and welfare. Conservation, as such, would not consider it important to save a burnt feral pigeon - but for him every wild creature counts.

At the same time he passionately wants future generations to be able to enjoy nature in the wild. These feelings come together in his credo: "We harm nature so much. So let us put as much back into it as we possibly can."

Wildlife Aid is doing just that, and deserves the support of everyone who marched for the countryside last weekend — whatever they were marching for.

• Wildlife Aid, Randalls Farmhouse, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 OAL (01372 377332), Emergency helpline (calls 49p per minute): 0879 YUU132.

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CHANGING TIMES

Many young people in rural areas feel insecure, isolated and lonely, writes Fred Redwood

The lost generation

the holiday-maker scanning the estate agent's windows. A stress-free, slowmotion existence in the sticks. with the children growing up well away from urban vices. Good-quality schooling, friendly locals and family walks in the countryside com-

plete the fantasy. But a report published this week by the Rural Development Commission, entitled Young People in Rural Areas Making Things Happen, paints a very different picture of life in the countryside for

teenagers. The Commission found that lack of public transport causes enormous problems. Social and sporting amenities are often lacking, as are opportunities for further education, training and employment. A shortage of low-cost housing prevents young people from taking the first steps away from the family home, while remaining close to their roots. Perhaps the most worry ing observation was that young people in the country frequently felt insecure, isolat-

ed and lonely. Zoe Hall, 22, spent her teenage years in Upton. Dorset, 16 miles from Swanage. Set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, with glorious beaches nearby, her adolescent years could have been

blissful. Far from it. "I disliked growing up here intensely," she says. "Lack of transport was the crux of the problem because that isolated me from friends outside the village. There was simply nothing to do. There was no swimming pool, no social club basically, no leisure ameni-ties of any kind.

The main form of entertainment was under-age drinking, while people living closer to Swanage often spent all their time in the amuse-



Toeni Longford says teenage drinking and drugs are real problems in her village

ment arcades. As a result, gambling addiction is a real problem. When I left home, finding accommodation was a nightmare because only win-ter-lets were available, the summer being completely given over to tourists.

"Also, the incomers to the area actively dislike young people. They complain about them continually and even had the cheek to protest when an advice centre for local teenagers was built. Jobs are difficult to find here, so most young people move away."

Zoë's problems are typical. The Commission has instigated a number of measures to make country teenagers' lives less of a struggle. In Shrewsbury, for example, a "Wheels To Work" scheme tackles transport. Unemployed 16-25year-olds lease moneds to get to interviews, to take up training or to undertake intensive job searches.

it is not only older teenagers who experience problems with the rural life. Most youngsters forge lasting friendships during the first years of secondary school, but this, too, can be

ames Goldstraw, 13, lives in the tiny village of Great Sheffield, Berkshire. "I see very little of my friends at school because, to visit them, my parents have to drive me on a 20-mile round trip," he says. Then they have to do the same to bring me home.

"My leisure time consists of playing on my computer or watching TV. Sometimes I meet some of the other local

kids, but there is so little to do here that it can lead to getting into trouble. We'll go on to private land and look around buildings which we shouldn't be near, I know it's wrong, but sometimes you do these things out of sheer boredom."

Adolescents have always complained. "I'm bored" is a teenager's mantra, whether it's heard in Los Angeles or Littlewick Green, Disillusioned parents reading this may have one comforting thought: life in the sticks may be boring for teenagers, but at least they are safe there.

Unfortunately, that is not necessarily the case, either. Toeni Longford, 16. lives near Lambourn, not far from the gallops which inspired Sir John Berjeman

"In a tiny community like

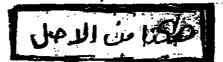
this, friendship groups are very important, so if you fall out with one person you can be ostracised by the whole group," she says. "This has happened to me and it was horrible. In a bigger community a disagreement wouldn't matter very much because you would have more people to mix with. But in the country. relationships are so much more intense.

There is a well-known drugs problem in Lambourn. and there is also a lot of drinking among young people. Everyone has this Vicar of Dibley image of the place, but you should see it at night. It's full of gangs getting 'out of it' and making trouble. I wouldn't dream of walking through Lambourn after

o if life in rural areas is So unpleasant for young people, what is the answer? Toby Johns, the head of rural services at the Rural Development Commission. calls for, among other things. greater public awareness.

'It's vital that we all realise that young people in country areas need more affordable homes, decent public trans-port, better jobs and the chance to enjoy themselves," he says. "We are determined to give these issues a higher profile.

Fine words, but they are rather lost on Zoe Hall as she tries to decide where her future lies, "I am at an age now where I really appreciate the beauty of the Dorset countryside and the coastline." she says. "I paint a lot and in many ways I would like to settle around Swanage when I am older. But then there is the problem of children I wouldn't bring up a teenager of my own around here. The countryside is no place for a





Ammunition being blown up in the lavatories, mooning championships, and the start of passionate love affairs...

the last time a Gulf War loomed, my eldest son decided he wanted to become a fighter pilot and bomb iraq. Luckily, he was only nine at the time, but it meant that I had to promise to enrol him in the Air Training Corps.

Casual visitors to the countryside may not be aware of this but, at weekends and in the holidays, the aircraft you hear overhead and the tank you see rumbling in the distance could well be being piloted by enthusiastic 13-year-olds from Cadet arms of the Services. (As there are 127,000 cadets swarming around the UK countryside, they are hard to miss.) ve got no military background, so I don't know what to expect when my son yas finally old enough to join a Cadet air

Almost at once, his character changed peculiar and unexpected ways. He'd always been an untidy, dreamy erson, but suddenly he was begging me o shave off his long hair, and spending all his free time ironing his lapels and rying to get a mirror shine on the toes of his boots. He studied photos of aircraft obsessively and was often to be seen marshalling his toddler brother into drill positions in the yard.

Military did my son a service

The squadron he was attached to seemed to go in for pleasingly bizarre

Every few weeks, there'd be a night exercise, which meant that my son would have to stay out overnight until break-fast-time, returning pink with pleasure and covered in mud and a variety of

other caders were spending three nights being hunted through pitch-dark woodland by their superior officers. The prickles were there because my son had discovered that the best way to evade capture was to wear three balaclava helmets at once and dive head-first

into a thorn-bush. No one could bear to

When I mentioned that I thought this behaviour a bit odd, a friend living in Gloucestershire told me that she'd seen her son, who was attached to the Army Cadets, trundling through Bourton-onthe-Water at midnight with a crowd of another cadet on a quently dropping

Still, at least our sons never came home plastered in manure. According I finally discovered that he and the to another mother, at the end of a night in-charge liked to 'cowpat" the cadet who had been the most annoying and

unhelofui. Fascinating stories filtered back from summer camp, too. Along with the expected diversions such as flying a Hercules, sailing a Rustler 36, or learning how to handle a semi-automatic 303, my son and his friends were sampling some of the other, less well-advertised, delights of the military.

DOWN TO EARTH



Heavy sleepers woke to find themselves strapped to the affairs begun.

roof-beams of the dormitories, live rounds of ammunition were blown up in the lavatories, mooning championships were held, and passionate love-One particular friend of my son

who wishes to remain anonymous, fell asleep in a girl cader's tent while camping at RAF Benson. He woke at 2am, horrified to

hear a patrol approaching. A torch beam was shone in his face as he lay in a jumble of bedding, feigning

Just as he thought he was about to be court-martialled or worse, one of the patrol remarked in a scornful tone: "Cor, what an horrible ugly bird", before

I don't mean to criticise the Cadet Services. I couldn't be more pleased that kind, volunteer adults were prepared to spend so much of their time with my son.

harging only a nominal sum, these dedicated servicemen and women provide the most perfect entertainment for teenagers - and all in

a safe setting in the countryside.

And there's an added spin-off too. For someone such as my son, who has only had a state education, the Cadets has acted like an expensive Swiss finishing school.

Nowadays, he feels an unaccountable compulsion to stand to attention when he's being ticked off, to call his elders "sir" and to wear a tie whenever he goes out in the evening.

This last habit puzzles his companions. who tend to ask rudely if he's going for a job interview - but he's noticed that he always gets served first at the bar.

The hours spent drilling on a paradeground have paid off handsomely, too. Apparently, they've proved the best possible training for the complexities of

disco-dancing.
When I talked to a spokesman at the Ministry of Defence, he told me that roughly 26 per cent of the current intake into the Armed Forces were former cadets - but this figure mystifies my son

and his friends. One of them maintained that Cadets was more of a rite of passage than a career move, and that the only people he knew who were still dewy-eyed about the Armed Services were those who hadn't spent their teens simulating combat conditions in a remote patch of under-

For me, this disenchantment is the best part of the deal. However noble it may be to lay down one's life for one's country. I'd much rather my son had a safe desk-

And I'm thrilled that the military - out of the goodness of its heart - has devoted so much time and effort to working him round to the same point of view.



A man of letters, Sandy Macfarlane steps ashore on Inchmurrin, an island on Loch Lomond, to deliver the mail on one of the most beautiful postal rounds in Britain

When storms stop the post

Postman Sandy Macfarlane has one of the most unusual rounds in oy Rodgers, Tonto and the Prince of Wales are all on Britain. Kevin Pilley dons his sou wester to help with deliveries Sandy Macfarlane's bstal round. Eight times a onth in winter and 12 in immer, he sails from the and the 31ft Marga-ret, built in 1947 almaha boatyard on the and named after autheastern shore of Loch his grandmother. mond to deliver the Royal

ail to the islands on Britain's rgest strip of inland water: s round is 23 miles long, five iles wide and about 600ft Three generations of Macrlanes have been authorised carry the Royal Mail on the ch. The contract has been in e family since it was awardto Sandy's father and andfather in 1948. "I don't how who will take it over om me as I have four aughters, says Mr Mac-rlane, 32, who first went out the mail boat when he was baby. His steplather, Sandy inside the loch. prbes, a former lorry driver.

elos out. Nothing much has anged over the years. We liver on Monday and Thursdy in winter, and on Saturdy as well from May to Gober. We still have the me three brats and we still live a Border collie, called We had three Sallys bfore him. That's the only ing I suppose- I have

s - Erest Hedra i

canged — the dog." in summer, Royal Mail phnants flying, two boats are uld - the Jost Marion, built 1038 and named after ndy's grandfather's nicce,

winter, Mr Macfarlane uses the tiny Lady Jean. named after the former Duchess of Montrose. In summer, passengers pay £6 for the three-hour round trip at a maximum speed of eight knots. "It can take longer when I am on my own. depending on what hospitality I receive and who's about and wants a chat," he says. There are 38 named islands

Inchmurrin, one

and three-quarter

miles long and

three-quarters of a mile wide, is the largest. *Some are just swirling weeds, floating islands or underwater hazards," Mr Macfarlane says. "Prince of Wales island is just a blip on the loch floor and is submerged most of the time. It named after a paddlesteamer which struck it some

time in the 1950s." Inchmurrin is named after St Mirren, who built an early Christian church there. Many



Sandy Macfarlane's grandfather, Alexander, delivering the mail 50 years ago

of the islands have connections with saints and Christian missionaries. They also have been clan strongholds, refuges from mainland plagues and sites for illicit whisky

Inchionaig and Inchtavannach were once used as dryingout places for alcoholics. Inchlonaig was planted with yew trees by Robert the Bruce for his bowmen. Larch trees grow on most of the other islands.

Inchmurrin is owned by the Scott family. After mooring the Lady Jean and stowing Kip below deck so he won't worry the cattle, Mr Macfarlane picks up the letters and walks up to one of the four homes on the island.

the Scotts have 39 cattle, two tractors, a horse called Tonto, mink, enough pheas-ants for a syndicate shoot every summer and Broie, a labrador. Tom Scott's father, a sheep farmer from Ayrshire, bought the island in 1940. "I don't know how much for. They gave places like this away in those days," he says. Mr Scott met his wife, Anne. offee with the Scott family provides a welcome break at a Young Conservatives "do"

on the mainland. They have two married sons, Dougal, a locum vet, and David, a farmer, who live with their families on the island.

Mrs Scott says: "The arrival of the mail boat was always a social occasion. I can remem-ber Sandy's dad always had a quarter-bottle of whisky with him and he used to pass out the drams to the men. He never gave me one though. "My father and grandfather

once walked across the ice eight miles here and back to deliver mail when the loch froze over in 1963," Mr Macfarlane says. Electricity was installed in the 1940s and a hotel was built in 1961. Selfcatering flats are open from April to October. Weddings are held on the island. The Scotts take their water from the loch and recycle much of their rubbish.

Mary, Queen of Scots, is reputed to have stayed at Lennox Castle on Inchmurrin. The island is now the home of the Scottish Outdoors Centre. Next stop was Inchiavannach island, leased by fireman

Roy Rodgers. He is not about.

Neither is the anonymous

tenant of Inchconnachan

The mail boat passes the Loch Lomond Golf Club which will host the Scottish Open this year. The final call is the last of the four islands inhabited all year, the privately owned Inchiad, which is island. Some residents cherish their about a mile long. The pier has collapsed and the caretakers, privacy. "The loch at high Derek and Michael Wood, water is going up," says Mr Macfarcome to collect their post.

lane, a member

of the local ero-

sion study group.

difference between

high and low water

and the islands are

getting smaller.

Don't ask me why.

If we knew, we

wouldn't have the

excuse for our

monthly meetings

Lomond. formed

10,000 years ago by the Highland

boundary line, a huge geographical fault separating the

Highlands from the

lowlands, was once

the home of the

outlaw Robert

MacGregor, popularly known

as Rob Roy. It has been the

haunt of dansmen, from the

wimpish Colquhouns who

owned Inchconnachan, to the

red MacGregors, once feared

"There can be lift in

An artist and a former accountant, the Woods brothers, from Nottingham, are the only Englishmen on the loch. They have been looking after Inchfad for three years. "It is mainly dealing with the thou-sands of moles," Michael says.

The wind gets up and the rain comes down. The strongest winds Mr Macfarlane has encountered have blown at force seven or eight. The mail run has been cancelled a few times in winter, but only once in summer in 50 years. George Johnson, who has just retired after sharing the postal duties for 15 years, once fell overboard and was in the water for 15 minutes before being rescued.
On his way back, Mr

Macfarlane sees that the tide has put his sorting office lft underwater. He shrugs and, looking at Ben Lomond disappearing into the mist, says: "Ours must be one of the most beautiful postal rounds in the

Red flag that heralds the start of spring

FEATHER REPORT

A RED-RUMPED swallow was reported over Cornwall earlier this week. This bird is similar to our own swallows. except for its distinctive red-dish-buff collar and rump. It was probably a spring mi-grant coming up from Africa to Spain that overshot the mark - and a forerunner of the vast army of birds that is about to land on our shores.

Among the first of these will be the chiffchaffs. In fact, there may already be some around. The earliest I have heard a chiffchaff singing is March 12, in the warm weather of 1995, but they usually start arriving in numbers around the first

day of spring, March 21. A few chilfchaffs stay here throughout the winter, but they hardly ever seem to sing, and it is probable that all those chiffchaffs that will soon be chinking away in the treetops will be genuine new arrivals.

However, some of the county bird reports that list the first recorded dates of summer visthe blackcap) because they feel the status of any individual is too uncertain.

Incidentally, there are now four chiffchaffs where there was one before. The British Ornithologists' Union has just "split" the chiffchaff into four distinct species: the Iberian chiffchaff, the Canary Islands chiffchaff, the mountain chiffchaff (found in the Caucasus and the Middle East) and our own common chiffchaff, as it is now named. However, they are only divided by very slight differences, and none of the three new ones has ever been recorded for certain in Britain. (A possible Iberian chiffchaff is under consideration.)

FOR BRITISH birdwatchers, the main problem is distinguishing the chiffchaffs from the willow warblers arriving from early April onward. When they are singing there is no problem. The willow war-bler's delightful, rippling cadences are quite different from the other's leisurely "chink,

chank, chink, chank". Otherwise, the two species are very similar - both of are very similar — both of them small greenish-buff birds with fine bills. The chiffchaff usually has black legs, and the willow warbler red legs; also, the chiffchaff is more white, less yellow be-neath, and a bit scruffier. But how often can you see these how often can you see these things or be sure of them?

At any rate, it will be a good moment when the first unmistakable chiffchaff appears this year. It will probably be singing near some water where there are already plenty of insects about, breaking off frequently to chase a passing

fly, then returning to its twice to sing again, and wagging its tail up and down in time with every note.

There are two other possible contenders for the title of firs spring visitor of the year - the wheatear and the sand mar tin. Wheatears are seen ir March in many places when they are not found in summer such as on playing fields.

In the early morning I have sometimes seen them in Re gent's Park in central London They stop here to feed or insects among the grass, and you first notice them as smal whitish birds darting to and fro a long way off. Closer, you see their dark eye stripes, and their white rump as they fly away. They are heading fo

the moors. Sand martins appear is March over lakes. There are sometimes large flocks o these nimble brown bird swooping over the water is

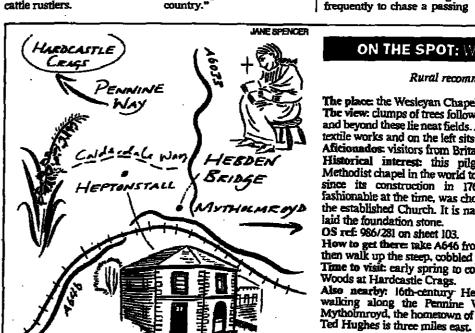


Spring arrivals: chiffchaff:

pursuit of flies. But they ar soon on their way, uncommo birds now, heading for the feremaining sandpits in Britai where they can burrow the holes and bring up the young in peace.

DERWENT MA

 What's about: Birders -- water for courtship displays by pairs of mute swans. Twichers — Alpine swift, Budworth Mere, Cheshire: surf scoter, Montrose. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.



ON THE SPOT: WEST YORKSHIRE

Rural recommendations

The place the Wesleyan Chapel, Heptonstall. The view: clumps of trees follow the route of the River Calder and beyond these lie neat fields. At the base of the hill is an old textile works and on the left sits Old Town Mill. Aficionados: visitors from Britain and overseas.

Historical interest: this pilgrimage site is the oldest Methodist chapel in the world to have been in continuous use since its construction in 1764. The octagonal design, fashionable at the time, was chosen so as not to conflict with the established Church. It is named after John Wesley, who laid the foundation stone.

laid the foundation stone.

OS ref: 986/281 on sheet 103.

How to get there: take A646 from Halifax to Hebden Bridge then walk up the steep, cobbled footpath for half a mile.

Time to visit: early spring to combine a visit to the Bluebell Woods at Hardcastle Crags.

Also nearby: 16th-century Hebden Bridge and excellent walking along the Pennine Way and Calderdale Way. Mytholmroyd, the hometown of the writer and Poet Laureate Ted Hughes is three miles east.

DEBORAH KING

No business like dogshow business

Crufts is not all wagging tails and

smiles. Carol Price goes backstage at

the world's most popular pooch show

s Crufts reaches its climax at the NEC today and tomorrow, there cannot be a car park or hotel bathroom in Birmingham where hairbrushes aren't being feverishly scraped through canine coats. Hundreds of nervous owners will be reaching for the tale, shampoo, tea tree oil, clippers, and natty hair-dividing de-vices called "crackers", which turn your dog into a canine Hilda Ogden.

Although the top prize money is only £100 for Best in Show, competition is enormous. Every year the show attracts more dogs and exhibitors: today, just producing a dog good enough to qualify is a tall order and much harder than most pet owners might

First, you have to secure a pup with show-winning potential - in terms of looks and temperament - which only 5 to 10 per cent of all pedigree dogs possess.

Once you have found such a dog, the hard grind and the motorway driving begins. The next year may be spent traversing the British Isles to notch up that vital first, second or third placing at a national championship show — the dog-owner's passport to Crufts.

There are no guarantees at the shows, even if the dog is a top pedigree. At many shows, owners come away emptyhanded, having spent hours of mind-numbing tedium waiting around the "benches" - or ringside kennel compartments - before they get to glimpse their judge. Boredom, nervous anticipation, elation, despair no current Crufts qualifier will have avoided the mental

The Robinson family, who his week travelled to the show rom their home in Newton Abbey, Ireland, have done it ill before. Alan Robinson and nis wife, Deirdre, show bearded collies; today their eyes will se fixed on their daughter, Clare, who at the age of ten is me of Crufts' youngest ever nandlers/qualifiers. She will taking her Lhasa Apso, Holly, into the ring and adnits to being "extremely nerous". despite the extensive

preparation she has put in. If Clare is one of the younest Crufts exhibitors, then 82-



A last-minute spot of glossy coat grooming for one hopeful competitor (left); and a trolley ride allows another set of Crufts contestants to save their strength for the big show



Say cheese: snap happy Strapper sets up a group shot

year-old Molly Castle has to be one of the most seasoned. A breeder of more than 50 King Charles spaniel champions, Mrs Castle, from Huddersfield, has defied injury - a bad knee resulting from a hip operation — to bring her two star bitches to the NEC.

nfortunately," she says, "my dogs won't show for anyone else, so I'm going to have to hobble round that ring if it kills me." Mrs Castle has been to every Crufts since 1948 which was cancelled by an electricians' strike" - and says that, along with many of her generation, she regrets the passing of "the good old days

when the show was much

more casual and intimate. Now it's all rush and push and so much more commercial." Exhibitors, too, are growing increasingly competitive, each seeking that new wonder product - be it aloe vera juice. green-lipped mussels, shark's cartilage, probiotic tonic, or

diet/grooming aid that might boost a dog's show-ring allure. Owners may spend millions every year on dog products, but, according to Brian Leonard of the Kennel Club, not even a miracle cure can turn a so-so dog into a champion.

any state-of-the-art miracle

star quality in the ring," he says. "Nothing else will do it." Last year's supreme Crufts champion, the Yorkshire terrier Özmilion Mystification, seemed to back up his theory



Time to relax before performing in the ring in front of the crowds (left); and 40 winks for an exhausted handler

 the winner's diet was amply supplemented with packets of crisps, digestive biscuits and Marks & Speheer roast chicken thighs, with no apparent ill-

Today's Crufts is no longer a simple dog show, but a fourday spectacular where traditional-breed exhibitors can be trade stands and displays of dogs doing everything from herding ducks to hanging off the shoulders of motor-cycling

Worldwide, it has become

famous for its prestige, glam-our, diversity—and the length of queues at its lavatories. Dogs seem well catered for in

But Beverley Cuddy, publisher of Dogs Today, thinks human needs are notoriously less well met if you are thinking of setting up a service selling fancy collars and shark's cartilage for the dogs. "If you were to develop a stand at Crufts which was just toilets for humans, you'd be set to

CRUFTS BY NUMBERS

Crufts, now in its 108th year. will cost the Kennel Club £2.3 million to set up and run. 20,892 pedigree dogs and 3,000 crossbreeds will be taking part. Some 100,000 human visitors are expected.

the biggest single breed entry (533) followed by labradors (524): the lowest are Hungarian Kuvasz (5). There are 180 judges aided

of 350,000 sets of paws and human feet, the NEC floor has to be covered in special carpet An estimated 750lb of dog

■ To accoming date the impact

hair and 1,500th of doggy waste will have to be clear during the show.

TV coverage of Crufts '98 starts tonight on BBC2 (5.40pm).

For tickets call the NEC box

A VET WRITE

about veterinary trans ing and gave an address to write to for further informs tion. We've lost it. Can you

A The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House, 92-64
Horseferry Road, Lendor SWIP 2AF, will help + and appreciate a large stamper addressed envelope. Six um versities award a degree in Veterinary Science or Medicine: Bristol. Cambridge, Ed-inburgh, Glasgow. Live pool and London. Write to the registrar of each for details of their veterinary school.

Preckles our cocker spaniel bitch is booked in for spaying next ments when she will be 11 months old. I'm told this operator involves removing her eva-ries and uterus. Why ro simply tie the tubes, as it human sterilisation? Will h need hormone replacementherapy and will she get fait A Tying the fallopian tule will prevent conception

but she won't be neuter. Whe the ovuries remain. Freckes will come into season every ix months, with all the usal complications. A false prenancy will occur eight wees after heat because her ovars continue to make the hrmones controlling this. Ad many unspayed bitches deviop pyometritis — a serios infection of the uterus — n middle age: If the uterus is t there, pyometritis can't happen. If you overfeed Frecks she'll get fat, but guide des are spayed and castrated, nd most have trim figures.

Have you any adice about introducing wo kittens to our dog — tho respects cats — and Dais, a 13-year-old feline who respects nobody. Daisy's brther, Tom, disappeared tree years ago and since ten Daisy has been very demading. We don't want to uset her, but we would like to art the next generation of ats now. Or should we wait util Daisy goes?

A Daisy won't feel thrat-ened by a pair of yong kittens. If the youngsters re-sume to get too familiar, thre will be spits and spats forhe first formight and later, at Daisy will make sure he remains "top cat". A 2ft squre wooden box with a lid an a kitten-sized entrance ble makes an excellent safe-harn for the babes. Feed all the cats at opposite sides of He same room so they get usello feeding together. Daisy ill almost certainly take on a nw lease of life when she has couple of lively youngsterso keep up with - and keepn

JAMES ALLCOCK

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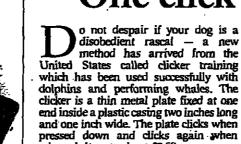
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Ms Whitehead has clicker-trained her

Windsor, who now shows off at her regular classes. He opens and closes doors, loads and unloads the washing machine. "But he can't do the ironing yet," she says. "We're working on that."

office on 0121-767 4850.

JACK CROSSLEY

 For information on courses, send an-SAE to the Association for Pet Dog Trainers. Peacocks Farm, Northchapel, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9JB. For videos and books, contact Stephen King at Crosskeys Books



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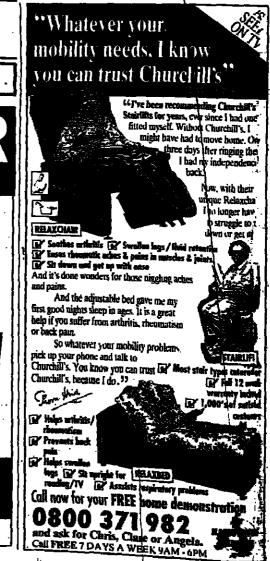
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Final cut for the Broadway Barber

Barry Wigmore (with apologies to Damon Runyon) meets the man who snipped the stars for 50 years

ne day there arrives in this man's town English guy with a little attaché case full ofscissors, razors and combs, and he moves in to work at a barber shop on Broadway up near 103rd Street. This guy is called Kay Demetricu because his par-ents come from Greece. But he was born and raised in Soho, London, and is as English as roast beef, in a refined kind of way, although even today, after 50 years in New York City, he fill talks with a touch of a Mediterranean accent.

Now this is the time of the Roaring Forties when Broadway is the centre of the universe and the guys and dolls who live and work there consider someone from London to have class, especially when he has a little David Niven mustache and an accent. Becluse he has a very nice tale to tell about the British, aistocracy, and the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Simpson, Mr Kay and his barber his are soon more than sone hat busy.

For 50 years Mr Kay flourishes an prospers, and in that time all manner of citizens, from prices and presidents to gangsterland gummen - and, of cours many actors, who are somwhere in between pass through his shop. He sees action ouside as well, like the death from lead which sometimes poisonin happensh this town.

In fac the Broadway Barber becmes an institution. Eleven boks about characters of the cit get to mention him. and citizhs come from all over for a hacut and a shoeshine in his stie. So when he finally decides a hang up his scis-sors, ju about all of New York whes to say goodbye.

The Mayor, Rudolph Giulian who will attend the openings a can of beans to get his icture in the newspapers, goi to a party with 1,000 other puble and gives Mr Kay ikminated thankirihim for his contribution to the city's rich and colourf history.

r Kay then makes himself even popular nounce that he is donating the ente contents of his shop to the cal museum. As the shop as remained unchange since it was built in 1907, ad has the original reclinin leather chairs, the copper in for hot towels, 600 razors i display cases, and wondered old bottles for oils and loons along its marble shelvesplus the striped barber's pd outside, this has the museur curator very excited.
In fat he is so excited that

the Musum of the City of New Yok is now rebuilding an entir floor so that it can put the d shop on show as a permanet exhibition.

It is at just the old store that citizes find so exciting. however is all the old stories that go th it. And now Mr Kay sits ha wooden chair in his aparthent 25 floors above New Yer. He is nearly 80 years of with big brown eyes and a soft voice, but his nill as sharp as his razors ad he tells his story as

The slop was started by an Italian motigrant (says Mr Kay). Aer ten years, when this guyaas a sizeable roll, he sells up not goes home to the land of saghetti. The guy who buys it is gambler, and every night hepulls the blinds and shoots dips with his employees. Unirtunately, he is not such a god craps player and one nighthe loses the shop on the roll othe dice to one of his

er that

need. Lines

barbers. Soon der, along comes Mr Kay, free off the American Airlines light from London, which halhad to stop twice on the way in Greenland and Newfour land, because they did not live big jets to cross the Atlanc in those days, Mr Kay doesso well in the shop that he becomes a partner, and

later he thys the joint. In this area at this time. citizens like Humphrey Bogart, George Raft and James Cigney, who were born hereabors, are struggling to scratch diving as hoofers and actors of the stage, and of course new all come in for a shave aid a short back and

Rait bes on to become a famous sovie star, then blows all his noney and gets barred from Batain because of his friendship with some very discredisable members of the Mob. By at this time he is teaching dames to dance the



Reynolds: easy guy

tango in a dance hall on 168th Street and Broadway, which makes him very popular. Years later, Mr Kay remembers, Malcolm X gets shot

"Bogart was a good friend." says Mr Kay, "and then Cagney. He was a little guy, skinny, then he became fatter. Humphrey was born round the corner from me, at 245 West 104th Street. His father was a physician, a doctor, his mother was an artist, a painter. After he became an actor and went to Hollywood, he would always stop in for a haircut when he was back

That big movie that made him, Casablanca, it was intended originally for George Raft, but he didn't like it, so Bogart took it and was made. He always laughed about that. He called me Kay, I called him Humphrey. He told his friends about my shop and they would come in for a cut as

hen one day Yul Brynner walks into Mr Kay's shop. He is not a star at this time, mainly because he still has hair. Yul was married to a beautiful English actress, Virginia Gilmore," says Mr Kay. They were living at 444 Central Park West, roughly three blocks away from me, and had one son, so she brought the kid, who was about two, in for a haircut.

That was in 1948 and that's how I got to know Yul I knew him as a friend. Then one day he comes in and says he is going to make a film, The King and I, and he wants a different look. What will he look like shaved, he asks.

Good, I say. He didn't have thick hair. The front was thin. He had enough to comb and look good, but he also had a perfectly shaped skull. I cut his hair very short, put a hor towel on his head to soften the hair, then lathered it and shaved it with a cutthroat

razor. He was delighted when he saw himself. He looked better with his head shaved." Of course, in this man's

town some men take hair off. but many more want it put on. Burt Reyiolds was one. "Burt did and didn't have hair," says did and didn't have hair," says
Mr Kay rejuctantly. "He came
to me one time — he was
playing a letective in a New
York television show called
The Hawk — and he says to
me, "I'm losing my hair, what
do you suggest! How do you
like this implant procedure?" I
say, "It's all right, but there's

Eisenhower and Kennedy visit his shop for a quick trim. "Wonderful gentlemen," he says. "One day President Truman comes in and one of my customers says, 'Mr President, I'm next and I would be

can remember, including The

French Connection; The God-

father, Fort Apache. the Bronx

and Die Hard. He shaved

Bruce Willis's hair for Die

Hard but refuses to compare

Mr Kay has also had other

famous people and politicians,

including Presidents Truman,

him with Yul Brynner.

'One day Yul asks me for a different look. What will he look like shaved, he asks. Good, I say'

no guarantee that it's going to stay, and you could lose it, and if you lose it, then it leaves your skin pitted.

"If I lose it, he says, 'I'll get a rug.' That was 30 or 40 years ago. Burt Reynolds looks a sort of abrupt person, but he's not. If you know how to talk to him you can take the shoes off his feet. He comes to my apartment many times. He calls me and says, 'I need a haircut - can you do it now?' and I say, 'Sure,' and he comes right on over. He is a very easy guy. I like Burt very much. Recause so many stars were

Mr Kay's friends, it was natural that he should enter the movie business himself. Mr Kay has been the hair stylist on more films than he

honoured if you would take my place.' But the President in the East River?" At this the manageress says, 'Sir, I am not President in here, I am plain Harry S.

The godfathers of the Mub were more forbidding but equally polite, says Mr Kay. One mobster was Frank Costello, the Artichoke King. Mr Kay says: "No one could bring artichokes into New York without his OK. He paid you in artichokes, ten cases here, five cases there. He brought some to my shop one time, and I say to him, But I don't sell artichokes.' He says, Take em. So I did. You didn't upset

these people." Another visitor is Lucky

Truman. Please, take your

turn,' and he sits down and

we put them in cement boxes

Luciano, who is a very big

cheese in gangster circles at

this time. One morning Mr

Kay's six barbers are called

out on strike by their union.

and Luciano happens by for a

shave while the people are

parading and picketing

Luciano enters and says,

"Kay, what are they doing to

you? Do you want them here?"

Mr Kay replies, "Their union

told them what to do and they're doing it." But Lucky

says, "I did not ask that. Do

faints, and Mr Kay pleads, "No! I don't want them in cement boxes. I know them. I know their children and their wives. I was the president of the union myself until a couple of months ago."

So the barbers live to cut another day, but a little later the strike ends and Mr Kay is never sure how much influence Luciano has on this Another day, Mr Kay is

strolling down Broadway minding his own business when suddenly he gets a pat on the back, "Mr Kay, nice to see you," say these citizens he recognises. They are two

brothers in the Jewish Mafia, and they give Mr Kay an invitation he does not like, but he likes even less to refuse. "Let's go for a little walk," they say, and because he can find no excuse, Mr Kay walks with

Into the brothers' supermarket they go, and after approving of their cookies and crackers, Mr Kay is taken into a back office. There Mr Kay sees lots of baskets containing fruit and vegetables: apples bananas, potatoes. "I ask them, 'Aren't you afraid of rats?" " says Mr Kay.

"Not the sort you mean," says one of the brothers, take a look'." Mr Kay says, "I move some of the potatoes and the basket is full of \$100 bills. They are all full of money. I work it out later, I have just seen at least \$35 million."

Kay only knows as Joe stops his car outside the barber's shop one day. At this time Joe has the longest Cadillac in the United States, and therefore the world and he invites Mr Kay into the car. Well, this makes Mr Kay very nervous indeed because Joe has a bad reputation for dirty work.

And then Mr Kay makes a big mistake. The car is so long that it has a cocktail bar and a little sink in the back with taps for running water. "I say, 'Joe, your hands get dirty so often, you have a sink in your car to wash them?" says Mr Kay. He means it as a joke, of course, but Joe does not take it this way.

His eyes go hard. "Kay," says Joe, "I love you too much. Otherwise that remark would put you in a cement box tonight." And years later, sitting in his apartment high above New York, the Broadway Barber shakes his head at the memory of all he has seen from his shop.

"The aristocracy of America was around here," he says.

THE 建酸 TIMES

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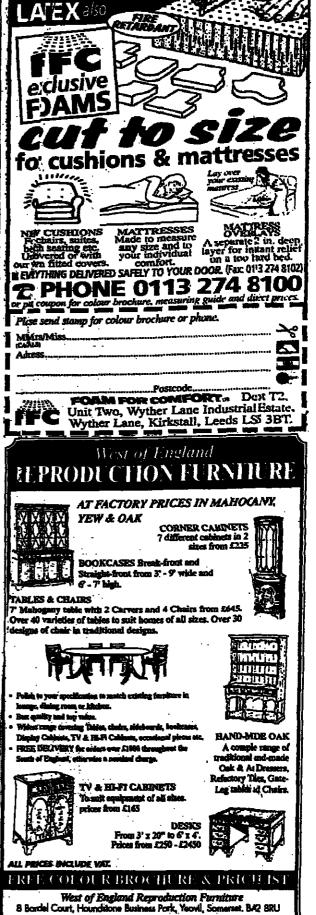




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HULTON GETTY

Make waves on the radio

MARCH 13-15 Absciling climbing white-water rafting and canocing bridge and gourmet cooking. At various locations along the Welsh border with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price, full-board, from \$150 (activities weekend) to £175 (bridge in Ludlow).

Better swimming. A course for those who can swim up to 20 meres, are confident in the water but want to improve. Lectures and pool sessions at the Earnley Concourse. Chichester, West Sussex (01243 67039). From £142 residenrial, £48 non-residential Winter skills and mountain

navigation. Short, intensive course for hillwalkers, teaching winter skills. At the Snowgose Mountain Centre, Corpact, Fort William, Scotland (01)97 772467). Price from £70-£90 for two days. Scottish country dancing. At

Belstead House, Ipswich, Suf-folk (01415 586321). From £75. Walk tite. Ridgeway Path: French conversation: History of Opera the French Ba-roque, Landscape and garden histery. At Missenden Abbey. Great Missenden. Bucks (0 494 890295). From £159 residential, £69.20 nonresidentia

Sing jazz A social history of Britain's railways, 1825-1914; Making Jolls' house dolls. All at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Vest Sussex (01798 S65306). From El14 residential Blacksmining. Craft handtools: Sort stories: Glass engraving Life drawing. At the West Pean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811031). Pice £150 residential, £97 non-risidential.

Yoga: A pianist's journey through he 19th century. At the Alston Hall Residential College, reston, Lancashire (01772 78\$61). Price E75 with tuition.

Tuition idGreek or Russian. At the Bashouse Language Centre, 5 Sheepcote Street, Birminghm (0121-643 0114).

ja kre^jel , 🐿



Swot up on slavery and delve into the history of West Country ports at

Dillington House, Somerset Price from £107 residential,

£65 non-residential. Railways of Wales; Jane Austen at Bath; Improve your drawing, Practical photogra-phy. All at the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, Wales (01495 333777). From £88-£98 per course, inclusive.

The birds in your garden:

Bridge for improvers: Ships, sand and sea; Italian opera. A varied selection this weekend at Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Price from £89 per course, inclusive. Classic car weekends. At the Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcester (01386 852255). Chauffeur-driven excursions through the Cotswolds in classic cars, visiting museums and gardens. From £780 for two

two people sharing. Mahler Symphonies Nos 1-4: Human origins; The artist's vision; The outer and inner eye. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 per

nights' half-board based on

course, inclusive. -The Revolutions of 1848. A day school to reassess events France, Germany, Sweden, 150 years ago in France, Russia and Israel, Mounting

University of Oxford, Rewley House (01865 270308). Price £30.50 with bunch.

Dowsing for beginners. With the British Society of Dowsers (01233 7502530). At the Hawkwood College, Stroud, Gloucester. Price £146 residential. £70 non-residential.

Book keeping Introduction to the Internet: Calligraphy for beginners: Painting — a beguiling medium. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pul-borough, West Sussex (01798 865306). From £114 residential. £90 non-residential.

Touch wood, the survival story of old superstitions. The history of parks and gardens: Dowsing A voice workshop. At Knuston Hall, Irchester (01933 312104). Price £120 per course, inclusive.

Health and fitness. At the Priory Hotel, Weston Road, Bath (01225 331922), close to the centre of Roman and Georgian Bath, with spa, steam room, fully equipped gym, indoor pool. Price £220 for the weekend, including dinner, B&B, use of facilities. Fresh air and fine houses. A local history weekend in Essex and Suffolk, with Peter Lawrence, at the Field Study Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Price £105 residential, £82 non-residential. Garden appreciation; Medi-

eval art and architecture, Spring into art, Lace. At the Hill Residential College, Abergavenny (01495 333777). Price from £88-£98 inclusive. Look out for mammals. Badgers, otters, dormice and other small mammals are the subject of this course run by the Mammal Society at the

Orielton Field Centre, Pern-

broke (01646 661225). From £50. titive chess; Laternational folk dance from



Comedy on the airwaves: make a goon of yourself by learning to write scripts for radio at the University of Cambridge on March 27-29

and framing pictures. A selection of the activities available this weekend at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392) Prices from £142 residential, £98 non-

MARCH 27 29 Massage for relaxation; Bed-fordshire lace. Both this weekend at the Urchfont Manor College, Devizes, Wiltshire (01380 840495). Prices from £99-£104. The cottage garden; Slavery,

dragons and pigsies, West Country legends and folklore: A Greek experience. A selection of the weekend or one-day courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). Residential prices from £110. Daily rates from £24.

seamen and smugglers, the

trade of the West Country

ports, 1600-1850; Music in

Vienna, 1890-1945; Giants,

Italian weekend; Spanish weekend. At the Brasshouse Language Centre, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham (0121-643

0114). Price £89 per course. Refinishing antique furniture: The three ages of opera; Drawing and painting landscapes, Botanical illustration. A selection of the courses at the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices from £150. inclusive.

Laugh and be well; Dr Johnson got it wrong. Quilting: Silk-screen printing. All this weekend at the Hill Residential Centre. Abergavenny. South Wales (01495 333777). Prices from £38-98 inclusive.

The demon drink, a social history of the English pub; The History of portraiture, A little animal magic. Some varied courses this weekend at Knuston Hall Residential residential. College, Irchester, Lincs (01933 312104). Price £89 per

A recorder weekend; Woodturning. Both at the Horn-castle College, Horncastle, Lines (01507 522449). From

Dance for fitness and fun; Repairing and restoring china; Chinese seafood cookery;

course.

Bridge for improvers. All this weekend at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price from £142 residential, £98 non-

Writing for radio, writing dialogue, writing full stop: Reading post-colonial writ-ing: Greeks and Romans around the Bay of Naples. All this weekend at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 per course, inclusive.

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Confessions of a monk

A film based on Ampleforth shows the struggle of vocation versus

Archbishop of Westtrigued by an invitation in early summer to a film premiere in the West End. Whether he will attend is open

temptation

to question but, given time and the chance of a private viewing, he would almost certainly draw the curtains and settle down with some popcorn. The film is low budget. British and destined for gen-eral release. It is also the talk

of Ampleforth, the private Catholic school in Yorkshire where Cardinal Hume was a housemaster in the 1950s be-fore becoming Abbot in 1963. Monk Dawson is loosely hased on the novel by the Catholic author Piers Paul Read, who wrote it after an education at Ampleforth, during the time when Cardinal Hume was a housemaster there. Much of it consists of an unflattering portrayal of life in a fictional Catholic boarding school called Kirkham in

Yorkshire, showing the beat-

ings, bullying and early homo-

sexual passion which influ-

ence the character of the

fictional pupil.

The pupil, Dawson (played by John Michie), eventually becomes a monk and then a priest in Chelsea, west London. Things start to go wrong after he is seduced by a glamorous Sloane Ranger, Jenny Stanten, who is played by Paula Hamilton, the former model from the Volksvagen advertisements.

Soon afterwards she leaves Dawson for his best friend. He has fallen in love and his tragedy unfolds as his life and ministry collapse amid the vulgar surroundings of the Chelsea fast-set. Eventually,



Lead me not into temptation: Dawson (John Michie) is seduced by Sloane Ranger Jenny Stanten (Paula Hamilton) in a scene from Monk Dawson

Dawson becomes a Trappist monk and the film closes with a picture of the illegitimate son he does not know exists.

Though filmed in Dorset, the producer and director Tom Waller, who is just 23 and went to Ampleforth himself, insists that the setting is Yorkshire. "They wouldn't let us film at Ampleforth because, understandably, they didn't want to be associated with a work of liction about the school," he says. "Piers Paul Read's book was banned at the school. So it became one of those things I wanted to read.

"I don't think the film puts Ampleforth in a bad light. It is a morality tale. Celibacy is hard for any man, although the film is more than that, it is a moral tale drawn from real experience. It shows that the Catholic

church and its rules are difficult. Some men stray. Monk Dawson tries to lash out at the church for being so conservative and unforgiving. These kinds of thoughts must go through the minds of many

Father Justin Price, who promotes vocations at Ampleforth, denies that Read's book was ever banned at the school. although he concedes that the boys were not actively encour-

he monastery is thriving, says Father Jus-tin, with a regular intake into the novitiate. "The book is not a portrayal of Ampleforth, it is a morality tale and as such is very good. It is certainly not a portrayal of Ampleforth as it is today. The past 30 years have seen a lot of changes." he says. "I think Monk Dawson shows the search for love

which takes a man through the monastic life into knowing himself better, finding his weaknesses and back to God." Read, whose latest novel, Knights of the Cross, about sex and Catholicism, was pub-

Conflict in the classroom: "The film is a morality tale"

lished in paperback last Monday, is a committed Catholic. He is a lay reader at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington, West London, a governor of More House school, he is on the board of the charity Aid to

the Church in Need and is also a trustee of the Catholic He did not consider entering

a monastic life because he wanted to marry and to have children. But he emphasises the importance of religion in education.

The issues Monk Dawson explores are still very much alive. They concern the value of prayer, whether it makes a difference. I am in favour of the contemplative life. God can do more than we can. Catholic belief is that we can pray to God directly to influence events," he says.

The contemplative monk or nun prays on behalf of the wider community, not just for

"I hope the film will make people wonder about materialism, even when it is benevolent materialism like housing the homeless."

Hamilton, also a practising Catholic, is delighted by the film and its message. "I believe religious education is incredibly important as a community-based activity," she says. It should be delivered with a light hand and a fair heart."

RUTH GLEDHILL

7 hatever we want to make of the Millennium Dome, wounded as it is by its inflated budget and its muddled presentation. the controversies around it are dramatising some the big issues our society faces as we try to mark time on a grand scale.

Take the "zone" (now there's a word from the material realm) called Spirit Level, which is aiming to explore the spiritual, emotional and moral dimensions of human life. What experiences should we expect it to dramatise and reflect for us, if we

pay our £15 for the privilege?

The problem starts with the "S" word itself, chosen no doubt preplanners seem to be searching for an elusive common currency or universal vocabulary that will include all and offend none.

When the word "spirit" is cut loose from a particular tradition, it gives up a liveliness and passion and turns it into a kind of linguistic Lycra, stretching to accommodate any it does not express the view of most

Millennium Dome reflects our 'spiritual wasteland'

property of a New Age-style Gnosticism, posting as "the Holistic Option".

It appears that Dome theology is going to follow the lead given by those such as John Hick and Matthew Fox into a humanistic cul-de-sac among ourselves about that which we cannot really talk about I fear the language of faith will become a kind of spiritual Esperanto which, by trying too hard to belong to everyone, ends up belonging to no



GAY Christians in Britain, and it is unlikely to be welcomed by Jews or

On an architectural level, the Dome is promising us a garden one. This is one of the classic which "draws inspiration from the mistakes of modern liberal theology; sheltered calm of a Christian monastic cloister, the austerity of Japanese

exuberance of Muslim

Here is the seduction of a press release which promises us that we have all been recognised, that something has been borrowed from us all to be combined in a sounding horribly like Songs

of Praise, if it is read from a Judaeo-Christian tradition, the choice of a garden appears to hold out the promise of an innocent and neutral religious space.

True, the Christian Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. In between, innocence is lost and the garden is ruined. The name of the garden changes from Eden to Gethsemane. I suspect that the Dome planners have little intention of offering us a Gethsemane experience anyway. After all, the sponsors might not like it. It is because I believe in the Holy

Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, that I hope we get something more than we are being offered at present. Will not this Spirit, who amoints the church to bring good news to the poor, call us to make signs of justice? Can this Spirit who belos us see visions and dream dreams give us an inspirational urban vision of New Jerusalem rather than a designer uche of Eden?

A garden is no substitute for a cross and "Spirit" is no substitute for the Holy Spirit. Of course, let different voices and faith traditions be heard and experienced within the Zone, but let us not forget that a "spirit level" is concerned with truth. Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church, East London.

A welcome on the hillside



Ruth Gledhill visits a Welsh centre for the study of theology

GAZING DOWN at us from beneath his magnificent eyebrows, the Arch-bishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, talked to us of God.

Theology, he said, citing Ecclesiasticus, could be described as "the activity of a scribe". It is the know-ledge which could only come from God, he said. "Sometimes this holy learning was called wisdom, and it was through wisdom that it was through wisdom that God brought the world or created order into being." He then broke off into

Weish which, according to the rabbi sitting near me, Dr Dan Cohn-Sherbok, a university professor, bears a remarkable resemblance to Hebrew.

Rabbi Cohn-Sherbok. who has yet to discover another Jewish person in Lampeter and has marked his recent arrival in the province by placing the Welsh flag in his front garden, was not at all put out to be at a Christian service. He read the first Bible lesson at our service, where we were celebrating the opening of a centre for the study of theology and

religious studies. The service took place in the university chapel.
decked out in the red and
green of the Welsh flag.
Lampeter is the oldest

university in England and Wales after Oxford and Cambridge, but its depart-ment of theology, religious and Islamic studies has just moved into the country's newest university building, built for £750,000 and halffunded by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, Crown Prince of Abu

While we sang Christian hymns and prayed in the chapel, Muslims said Friday prayers in the Islamic prayer room, and Buddhists attended a seminar by Professor Sulak Siva-

AT YOUR SERVICE

* A five-star guide * ARCHBISHOP: Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones ARCHITECTURE: Traditional-style modern building. ** SERMON: Beautifully theological *** MUSIC: Welsh choir led us in resonant hymns. *** LITURGY: Readings, prayers and hymns. **

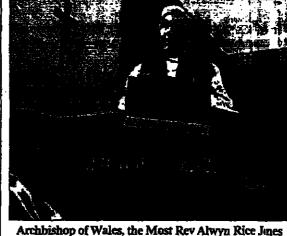
SPIRITUAL HIGH: A variety of religious experience *** AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Deticious feast of hale and kosher food. ****

raksa from Bangkok Earlier, Dr Kirti Rawat, director of the reincarration research foundation in India, lectured on developments in reincarnation, and Professor Edmund Bosworth spoke on Sufism.

OUR HYMNS, sung to traditional Celtic hymn tunes and with harmonies provided by the Wilsh congregants, included The God of Abraham Praise based on the Hebrew Yigdal, which is itself used as an opening hymn for Sabbath

services in synagogues. So when Archbistop Rice Jones came to round off this multi-faith fest vith his sermon, we gave tlanks for his blessed simplicity -even if half of it was in Weish. "We can unlerstand theology as a neans of grasping the truthrevealed to us about God, he said. All theological escussion was important, ecause it had consequence, for the religious life of hunans,

 Sheikh Khalifa bulding. University of Wales, pump Caredigion SA-42 TEL (01570 424701).



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Church services for tomorrow

Second Sunday of Lent BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch L & Euch, Darke in F; 3.15 Ch E, Statham in E; 5 Gosber. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S
Euch: 3.30 Ch E, A: Teach me O Lord (Byrd).
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP:
9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch; Harwood in A flat: 4
Ch E, Walmisley in D minor, Father P Daly. BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch M. Canon Hindley; 10.30 Euch, Ireland in C. A: Ave verum (Mozart); 4 Ch E. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, Canon G Thomas; 3.30 E. Blait in B minor. BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10

Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rev J Kaoma: 3.30 Ch E, Kelly in C, The Dean. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M. Short Service (Gibbors); 11 S Each, Darke in E; 3.15 E; 6.30 Sermon & Compline. CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; O.30 S Euch, Master Tallis' Testament (Howells); 3 E. Blow in F. CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 9.30 Euch, Rev I Moody; 11.15 Ch M. Stanford in C, Canon D Knight; 6 Ch E, A: Ich aber bin elend (Brahms).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL 7.45 L; 8.HC; 10 Euch, Missa acterna Christi numera (Palestrina), Canon J Newcome; 11.30 M; 3.30 E. Collegium regale (Tavenert: 6.30 ES. M. Harris in A; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3.30 E. Stanford in A. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: Il S Euch, Mass in G minor (Vaughan

Williams): 3,30 Ch E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon O'Donovan; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Jesu Christe (Ashwell); 6 E. COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch; 3 German Lutherans; 5 Ch E.
DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.45 S.
Euch, Aedi Christi (Marhias); 6 Ch E, A: 0
Lord support us (Moore), Canon R Parsons.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Stanford in B flat: 11.15 HC, Canon S Pedley: ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Stravinsky Mass. Canon J Inge: 3.45 E, Third Service (Tomkins).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 \$ Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 11.15 M. Canon K Parry: 3 E; 6.30 ES, The Dean, GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10.15 Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn); 12.15 HC; 3 E, The Beatitudes (Pārt). MC; 9.5, The beatmans (Fall). GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45. S Euch, Missa surge propera (Victoria); 11.30 M, Sumsion in B flat: 6.30 E, Watson in E. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10 Euch, Missa acterna Christi munera (Palestrina): 11.30 M, Harwood in A flat: 3.30 E. A: Lord let me know mine end (Greene).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10.30 S

Euch, Darke in E; 4 Ch E, Short Service
(Gibbons). Responses (Ayleward).

9.30 S Euch, Jackson in G: II.15 M, Sumsion in B flat; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30

Livery & Euch, Canon M Boyling: 3 Ch E. The Dean of Liverpool: 4 HC. MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch: 10.30 S Euch. Civinas sancti Ini (Byrd), Canon A Radcliffe: 6.30 E, Stanford in B flat. NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.15 Each: 10.30 M, A: Lord let me know mine end (Greene): 6.30 Ch E.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8
HC. 10.30 S Euch, Missa sexti toni (Croce):
3.30 Music & Readings for Lent: 6.30 EP.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M. Jackson in G; 10.30 Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3.30 E, Greene in C. PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch. Mass of St Thomas (Thome); 11.15 S Euch. Mass of the Holy Trinity (Waish), Canon A Wilkinson; 6 E. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M. A: Hear my prayer (Purcell); 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3.15 E. Edd., Mass of four wees (byrot; 3.15 E. SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 10 Euch. Vaughan Williams in G. Very Rev D Watson; 11.30 M. Sumsion in 8 flat; 2.45 EP (Said); 7.30 Mairiborough College Concert. SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch. Missa St Johannis de Deo (Haydo), Canon J Sinclair; 6.30 E. (Hayda), Canon J Sinclair; 5.30 E.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 1]
Ch Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3
Ch E, Jackson in G, Canon D Painter.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M &
Litany; 8 HC: 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, O quam
gloriosum (Victoria); 3.15 E; 5.45 Compline.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M; 10 S
Fuch. A: Also settled control. (Floreth S.20)

Euch, A: Ave verum corpus (Eigar); 5.30
Organ Meditation: 6 E, Watson in E.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15
C, Caoon R Capper; 11 Sol Euch, Sunsion in
G; 4 E, Walmisley in D major.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch,
Mines benefit (Belgericht); 13 0.44 Ledend Missa brevis (Palestrina): 11.30 M., Ireland in F; 3 E, The wilderness (Wesley). m F; 3 E, The wilderness (Wesley).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M;

11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina); 3 E,

Rev J Tidy; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9

Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass, Vaughan Williams in

G minor: 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital;

Music of the Our Father; 3.30 Sol V & B, Like

as the bart (Howells); 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M,

Short Service (Cithbries); 11 SS Euch; 3.30 F

Short Service (Cibbons); 11.15 S Euch; 3.30 E. YORK MINSTER: 8, 845 HC; 10 S Euch. Sumsion in F: 11.30 M; 4 E, Rubbra in A flat: 7 Concert by York Musical Society. ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL Herifordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Sol Euch; 6.30 E.
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL,
Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Short Service
(Batten): 6.30 Ch E. Sumsion in G.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S
Euch, Messe basse (Faure); 3.30 E.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, A: Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood); 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembroke-shire: 8 HC, 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 1L15 Ch M. The Lamentation (Bairstow); 6 Ch E. M. The Lamentation (Bairstow); 6 Ch E. ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch: 11.5 Ch Euch, Sumsion in F. The Dean of Cork: 7 Ch E. A Litany (Walton). ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL. Southwark: 8, 10 Lim: 11.30 Sol Mass, L'hora passa (Viadana); 3 Mass for the Ghanaian Community, Bishop O'Donoghue; 5 Stations of the Cross: 6 LM. ST GILES' CATHEDRAL. Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 MS, O vos omnes (Casals); 6 Lenten address and music; 8 ES.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL. Edinburgh: 8

Euch; 9.30 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Rev J Cuthbert; 3.30 Ch E. ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8:30 Euch; II-15 M, Britten in C; 12.15 Euch: 3.15 Ch E, Most Rev R Earnes. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Stanford in C; 11:30 S Euch, Missa euge bone (Tye), Rev John Paul; 3:15 E, Rev S Oliver: 5 Organ Recital; 6 ES.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SWI: 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.
ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM: 10:20 MP: 11 HM, Missa simile est regnum coelorum (Viotoria); Rev I Davies; 5:15 LM: 6 E & B. Short Service (Ayleward), Bishop R Williams, ALL SOULS, WI: 8 C: 9:30, 11:30 MP, Mr D Turner; 6:30 EP, Rev Pré R Bewes.
THE ASSUMPTION WI! I Affect disc

THE ASSUMPTION, WI: II Missa dies CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children's Service; 11 M, A: Have mercy on us O my Lord (Copland); 12.15 HC: 6 E.

us O my Lord (Copland): 12.15 HC; 6 E.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTL'AND, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev S Hood,
FARM STREET, W: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM:
12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9
HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloans Street 8.45 Euch;
11 S Euch, Missa in honorem sancti Josephe
(Pecturs), Canon J Andrew.
THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass,
Missa sent toni (Croce); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V &
B; Pater peccavi (Lubo); 4.30, 7 Mass.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Giztirian.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL EC2: 9.45 HC; 11
MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths. MS. Rev Dr L Griffith

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP: 2 Daffodii Day celebra-tion; 6.30 HC, Rev. Dr. P. Graves. ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran).
Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev G Neumant: 7 Ch Vespers, Mr B Fisher.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT.
EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Jackson in G, A: Laboravin gemin (Rogier): 6,30 Ch Euch, Missa tecum principium (Fayrfax). The Rector. ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Dysm in F: 6.30 Ch E, Collegium regale (Hovells), ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M. Sumsion in B flat, Rev J Shedden:22.30 HC. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, SW: II Rev WA Cairus; 1,30.

ST ETHELDREDA'S. ECI: II S Mass.
Missa acterna Christi munera (Palestrina).

ST GEORGE'S. WI: 8.30 HC. II S Euch.
Blake in D. The Rector. ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC+ 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W: 10.30 S Euch, Missa simile est (Guerrero, Rev B Wilson: 6 Ch E, Fauxhourdons (Talis). ST JAMES'S, WI: 9.15 HC; II S Euch, Rebecca Dudley, 5.45 EP.

Renecca Dudley; S.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, El5: Il Family Service, Entry of Queen of Sheba [Handel], Rev M Okello: 6.30 HC, Rev D Richards.

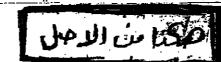
ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 S Ench, Missrere mei (Byrd), Rev J Streeting: 6.30 E.

ST MARK'S, NWI: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: Il S Euch, Ley in E minor. ST MARGARET'S, SWI: II S Euch, Rev Dr ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, A: O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons). 11.30 Visitors Service: 2.45 Chinese Service: 5 Ch E. Humfrey in E: 6.30 ES.

STMARY ABBOTS CHURCH. We 8HC: 9.30 Euch, Rev P Stubbs: II.15 Ch M, Eev F Gelli; 12.30 HC: 6.30 E, Rev M Fuller. ST MARYS, SWI: 9, 10 LM: II HM. Communion Service (Farrant), Father J Cowling: 6 Soi E & B: 7 LM. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN. NW2: 10.30 Euch. A: The Lamentation (Bairstow). ST MARYLEBONE. NW1: S HC: 11 Ch Euch. Laboravi in geminu meo (Weelles). ST PAUL'S, SW1: S. 9 HC: 11 Sol Euch. Purcell in C. A: Salvator mundi (Blow. CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M. Sumsion in B flat. A: Passan vostri trionfi (Lassus). Rev P R C Abram. CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP. Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley). Rev J D A Adams.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NWW 10.30 CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC, II M & L, Short Service (Cibbons): 3.30 E, Humphrey in E minor. GROSVENOR CHAPEL South Audicy St. WI: II S Euch, Mass for four vuices (Byrd), Rev S J Hobbs.

(Byrd), Rev S J Hobbs,
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY.
WC2: 11 M. A: Out of the deep (Morley), The
Chaplain: 12:30 HC.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks,
SWI: 11 M. O had 1 wings O to a dove
(Milton), Ven W G Reid, Band of the Bluex
and Royals: 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL
SEIO: 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F. A: Avgorerum
(Elgar), Rev R Nurton.

Compiled by Deborah King.



homas Stuffalor



Meeting the king of paradise on Tonga

South Pacific - 26,27



Don't let go down without you





A powerhouse in the making

Nigel Tisdall returns to Shanghai, one of the East's most beautiful cities,

to find a Chinese Gotham City growing around its historic heart

am shopping in the No I Department Store in Nanjing Lu the John Lewis of Shanghai. "You iike?" asks a smiling assistant as the holds up two shirts. One is green and tartan and the slogan reads "Gentleman-dog". The other is blue and orange and says "Child of

Cavalry".

1 politely decline, but later feel a rush of regret. Maybe I should buy such garments, not to wear, but as a record of the great changes now sweeping through China. In Shanghai, its largest and most go-ahead city, they are wising up so fast that such clothes, with their hilariously wrong Western slogans, will soon be a thing of the past.

In the time it will take for the Millennium Dome to be built. visited and converted into a white-elephant shopping centre, this gargantuan port, once dubbed the "Whore of Asia", will have been transformed

into a shimmering metropolis.

Back in 1985, when I first visited the No 1 Department Store, it was a monument to state-sponsored lethargy. Seven floors of mind-blowing inertia — yawning staff, shelves like a salvage clearance sale, prize goods hidden away in glass cases that no one had the key for ...

Now the store is awash with colourful products: shiny, pink ds, repro grandfather clocks, screaming karaoke machines. Computers sit next to ink brushes, calculators lie beside abacuses, exercise bikes compete with mah-

jong set.

During the past six years, the Paulis of the East has become a concrete forest of cranes, building sites and

HEADING EAST: HOW TO SEE SHANGHA

E Getting there: Nigel Tisdall flew to Shanghai with Austrian Airlines (0771-434 7300). Flights via Vienna leave from London Heathrow twice a week, from £1,465 refum in April. Reytuavel (0771-387 4933) offers discounted fares.

M Regent Holidays (0117-921
1711) arranges tailor-made holidays to Chima
Prices for an eight-night
package to Shanghai in April
start at EL080 including flights,
transfers and seven nights'
B&B at the Peace Hotel (1008-2 6321 6889. A cheaper option is the three-star Magnofia Hotel (0886 21 6502 6888), double toom £40 a night. Prices based

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Ill Sightseeing: Taxis are cheap and plentiful—
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in Chinese first. Pick a clear day to visit the
Oriental Pearl TV Tower and expect to queue.
A visit to both viewing bubbles costs 100 yuan
labout 57 20.

The Touring the Huangpu River Cruise also costs 100 years in "A" class. Boats depart from the

China girl: never seen without a mobile phone

Red tape: Visas are required British passport holders visiting China. A de-cutry tourist visa costs E25 plus E10 postage single-entry tourist visa coast Lee pais and prosinge and handling — they are best obtained with the help of a tour operator. Purther information from the Chinese Embassy (0891 880808). Ill Reading: Shanghai (Odyssey, £10.98); Rough Guide to China (£15.99); The Western Food Lover's Guide to Shanghai (Odyssey, £9.98).

embryonic skyscrapers, the embodiment of Deng Xiao-ping's dictum that "to become wealthy is wonderful". The city where the Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1921 is charging at full speed down the capitalist highway. So why go on holiday to a building site? Well, Shanghai

21ST CENTURY

in the 1920s, Shanghai's colo-nial rulers erected their pomp-ous banks, clubs and diplomatic missions.

phenomenal pace and it is a wonder to behold a brave new metropolis in the making.

The place to feel the pulse of Now, across the silty water, another herd of flagship buildchange is on the Bund, the ings is massing. Known as mile-long waterfront that Pudong, Shanghai's east bank has become a burgeoning powerhouse of skyscrapers and financial headquarters. stretches along the west bank of the Huangpu River. Here,

Visitors can look forward to a neck-tricking array of superlatives. The world's longest suspension bridge is in place; work is under way on the world's tallest building and thest hotel, and the largest partment store in Asia. Then there is the new stock an international airport . . .

futuristic ambition and the great symbol of its hopes is the landmark Oriental Pearl TV Tower. It rises 1,535ft above the Huangpu, a modernist kebab sporting two pink viewing bubbles, a revolving restaurant, a karaoke bar and a

that is set to become one of the world's hippest places in

Phoenix Dragon restaurant at the top of the Peace Hotel serves good Chinese food. Por a more unusual venue

try Spin, the revolving res-taurant in the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, and Lucky City,

Gaolan Lu). Shanghai has a growing number of ex-pat bars and clubs — for a listing see the web site http://www.shanghai-

which to stay.

Waiting with the effervescent crowds that gather at its tripod-like feet, I felt I had stumbled on one of history's magic moments. There must have been a similar buzz in the air when they built the Eiffel Tower, or the Golden Gate Bridge. The 360-degree views from the tower are stupendous, but even more intoxicating is the excited chatter of the Chinese sightseers, who devour the experience with a mixture of giee and awe.

hanghai is fortunate in having the land on which to build a secand city next to its historic heart. If all goes to plan, Pudong will become a Gotham City where life is conducted by worker ants in air-conditioned cocoons.

The old city has not been spared the frenzy for change and many of its colonial villas, churches and public buildings are threatened by development. Fifty years of revolution ary inertia was an excellent way to mothball Shanghai's imperialist architecture, but now the jackhammers are out in force. Even the Shanghai Club, once a bastion of the British aristocracy, is home to

a branch of KPC. It is easy to get nostalgic in Shanghai and to nurse fears about what the city is losing. I woold never stay in the glitzy skyscrapers of the Portman Shangri-la Hotel, an ex-pat palace that could be anywhere in luxury Asia, while there is still room at the art-deco Peace Hotel, built in 1929 and where Noël Coward completed Private Lives.

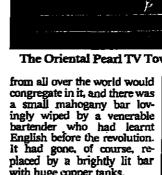
On the other hand, the new Shanghai Museum in Renmin Square is a delight. Built on four floors linked by escalators, it feels as serene and beautiful as an upmarket department store, and it is a joy to wander its marbled halls. At times, the pace of change

in Shanghai seems unaccep tably brutal, as when I found myself in a taxi driven by a young hot-head who went so fast that we knocked down a cyclist. At other times it is simply comic, such as the vogue for ostentatiously flaunting mobile phones, or the disco-style dancers at the Great World Entertainment Centre, who do their best to look sexy wearing two bras and passion-killing knickers.

There are mellow moments,

too, such as taking a seat in a wicker chair on the three-hour Touring the Huangpu River Cruise that chugs up to the mouth of the Yangtze. Tickets for this come in three classes: A-class gets you into a topdeck saloon with sky-blue armchairs, endless tea, rice cakes and a luminous-green toy car that turns into a torch. Londspeakers play The Blue Danube, and you sit in the sun watching mammoth tankers alongside barges strung together like sausages. On the return leg a magician performs, and when we sailed towards the Bund at sunset I sensed how exciting Shanghai must have been in the days when every traveller arrived

Before my visit I had promised to make two pilgrimages. One was to a basement boozer near the Russian Consulate that had been a favourite watering hole in 1985. Sailors



Company in Changle Lu.

triumphs, and I was so thrilled to find this place that I immediately bought a blue nankeen shirt to celebrate. It felt good to discover a pocket of eternal China at the end of the information superhighway and, even better, a shirt that was not covered in silly West-



The Oriental Pearl TV Tower. "There must have been a similar buzz in the air when they built the Eiffel Tower"

with huge copper tanks.

was more fruitful. The guide books cannot keep up with the changes in Shanghai, so I resorted to the Internet and found a passionate recommendation for the Shanghai Lan-Lan Chinese Hand Printed Blue Nankeen

It was a pig to find, but suddenly I wandered into a courtyard draped with banners of blue and white cloth drying in the sun. Nankeen is a traditional workers' cloth. hand-woven from cotton and printed with plant dyes, that has been used for centuries for clothes and furnishings.

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undulating hills around Guilin. All these are in addition to the usual highlights of the Middle Kingdom - Xian's Terracotta Army, the waterfront of Shanghai, the gardens and canals of Suzhou and the magical cruise through the spectacular Li River of Guilin. At CTS Horizons, China is more than just another destination.

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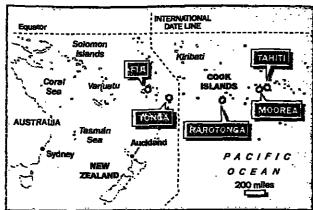
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Time to buy a place in the sun

Nicole Swengley found such a warm welcome on Tonga, she was almost tempted to buy the hotel



coking for your own personal chunk of Utopia? Fancy mov-Then you'll be interested to hear that Tonga's Paradise Hotel is up for sale.

Kentucky-born owner, Carter Johnson, is tired of running a hotel, even in paradise. "Oh, Vava u is terrific," he drawls. "No TV, no newspapers, no drugs, no guns. Gee, I saw a dog run over last week and told the police to put it out of its misery but they ain't got no bullets in their guns."

Carter Johnson considers his stint in paradise just another life chapter, following work on US gas lines and sheep farming in Australia. Now he hopes to head back to the States - if he can sell the

"There's too much sun here," grumbles his vanillaskinned wife. "You can never get away from it."

The Paradise Hotel perches picturesquely above Port of Refuge harbour on Vava'u, the largest of 40-odd stunningly beautiful islands - some inhabited, some deserted which make up the northern part of Tonga's archipelago. Secluded anchorages and enticing inter-island waterways make the Vava'u group one of the world's prime yachting destinations while

"I used to fly guests person-ally by plane from Fiji. Then I crashed it. You can see the pieces in the bar." Carter Johnson gives a deep-throated Southern chorde. Now the place is full of yachties."

the islands themselves remain

bums aren't interested in pay-ing for hotel rooms. But that's to the advantage of landlubbers who prefer their paradise with hot showers and privacy.

"Tonga's got a lot more to offer

Come the millennium, John thinks Tonga will be as popular as Tahiti. Certainly, the country is likely to attract a rash of visitors in December 1999 when it claims (as do several other islands) that it will be the first place to greet the new year thanks to its proximity to the International

one of the most laid-back countries in the world. Tongan torpor is all-pervading. Phones don't work, buses rare ly run on time, guides "forget" to meet you because of an allimportant rugger practice and shopkeepers' favourite expres-

tude owes something to the always has done - slowly.



The inference is clear. Boat-

Carter Johnson took me to supper at Ocean Breeze, a delightful restaurant run by ex-Londoner John Dale and his Tongan wife, Amelia. Over a delicious meal of fish, John said (without a hint of irony): than Wimbledon - white sand beaches, good food, a tropical climate."

mass tourism?

That seems unlikely. time begins is also sion is "come back tomorrow". Perhaps this relaxed atti-



ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC: TONGA

A participant flexes his muscles as he joins in the king's birthday parade on Tongatapu. A warm embrace is guaranteed in Tonga, one of the world's most laid-back countries

THE SOUTH SEAS: GE

How to get there: Nicole Swengley flew to Tonga with Air New Zealand (0181-741 2299), which offers direct, low season fares (April 16-June 15) from £750 return. Stopovers in Tonga are also available en route to New Zealand with low season 60-day advance purchase faces from £773 return. Accommodation in Tonga can be booked through Air New Zealand's Destinations zime (0181-741 2299). In Nuku alofa: Pacific Royal Hotel (friendly staff, nice bar, small pool)

Dateline Hotel (faded charm, pool, Old Timer oand) from £20. On 'Atata: Royal Sunset Island Resort (highly £25. On Vava'u: Paradise International Hotel (fax 00 676 70184) starts at £21. ■ When to go: In winter (July-September), imperatures ar pleasant (17C-22C) but winds can be strong. The first week of July is tourism week. Early summer (December and January) is a

night; International

The king's birthday parade, held on July 4

📕 Sailing: Sunsail (01705 722222) has a base on Vava'u offering charters. What to buy. Tongan handicrafts are the best in the South Pacific. Items of jewellery made from fish teeth or seed pods make ood souvenirs. Red tape: British and ing dishwater you'll love it. affable Kiwis, David and Terri Hunt. Their beachside fales have private verandas, shower

good time to go as

25C and 33C; the

marked by heavy rain.

rooms and snack-making fa-cilities, while main meals are

taken in an opensided fale

beside the lagoon. Sailing,

scuba-diving, sport-fishing and seaplane safaris to atolls

nperatures are between remaining summer months (January to April) can be Yaches should leave by November to avoid cyclones.

are admitted for 30 days without a visa. No vaccinations are required for entry but it is wise to consult your GP. Further information and leaflets from Tonga High Commission (0171-724 528 fax 0171-723 90749. Further reading: Cruising Guide to the Vava u Island Group in the Kingdom of Tonga (Cruising Guide Publications, £15).

Irish passport holders

with proof of onward travel

well off the beaten track of the South Pacific's mass tourism fact that Tonga is the only South Pacific country never to have been colonised. This independence has kept the culture intact and meant that faka tonga (the Tongan way of life) remains pretty much unchanged. Life goes on as it they just live on islands." King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV

Train Deluxe & Cruise to Marrakesh

visiting Paris, Lake Lucerne, Cote d'Azur, Menorca, Malaga for Granada, Cadiz for Jerez and Seville, Casablanca,

"Old traditions and new ways don't necessarily clash," explained the King of Tonga when I was fortunate enough to be granted an audience at his white-painted, wooden, seafront palace. "Isolation is impractical. Island people are no different to anyone else -

starts at £20 each per

Book of Records in 1976. Even so he remains huge, and has the stature of a god to his 105.000 subjects.

has lost 13 stone since he

weighed in as the world's

heaviest monarch at 33 stone,

according to the Guinness

When I was requested to crouch down during his arrival at a brass band concert

(everyone sits lower than the king to show respect), I was reminded of the time his mother, Queen Salote, attended Orseen Elizabeth II's comnation. It poured with rain that day. But Tongan customs forbid emulation of those you honour. So when Queen Elizabeth's carriage was covered by a hood, Queen Salote sat magnificently drenched - in a carriage awash with water.

The busiest time to visit Vava'u is during celebrations for the crown prince's birthday on May 4. Another week of partying takes place on Tongatapu, the kingdom's main island, around the king's birthday on July 4. Heilala Festival, as the

king's birthday bash is known, is a week-long gala of sports and music competitions, feasts, military parades, a street procession of crazily decorated floats and even an annual beauty contest. To gain an insight into

traditional culture, head for the Tongan National Centre, where you can see woodcarving and umu (underground oven) preparation. At night you can attend a Tongan feast at the centre, preceded by a traditional kava-drinking ceremony. Kava is the non-alcoholic national drink made from the ground root of the pepper plant. It acts as a mild tranquilliser, numbing lips and

tongue, and if you like drink-

While you feast on traditional dishes like roast suckling pig, chicken, 'ota 'ika (raw fish with chillies), octopus, sweet potato, yams, taro in coconut cream and faikakai (breadfruit pudding), entertainment is provided by ukulele-plucking Tongans and energetic warrior-like dancers.

The evening winds to a close with the tau olunga, a graceful solo female dance in which the ailed skin of the performer is plastered with bank notes by appreciative admirers.

whole-island tour of Tongatapu costs £12 including visits to Captain Cook's reputed landing-place, the sacred flying foxes (large fruit bats) hanging in the casuarina trees at Kolovai, Tonga bird park, the Ha'amonga a Maui Trilithon (a Stonehenge-like structure with solstice markings) and the impressive Mapu'a a Vaca blowholes where the sea spurts 30m-high

plumes through lava gaps. But you may prefer to chill out on a typical South Seas beach (the best are at Keleti and Ha atafu) or visit an offshore island like Fafa, a half-hour boat trip from Nuku'alofa, where you can over-night in fales (traditional thatched houses) hidden among coconut palms. Royal Sunset Island Resort

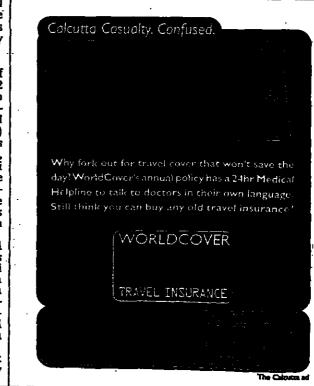
on 'Atata island is run by

Tonga: Travel Survival Kit (Lonely Planet, £6.95): Adventuring in the Pacific (Sierra Club, £10.99);

Envy them their lifestyle as they stroll to work along the soft white, coral sand beach beside a lagoon ten shades of blue. It's as close to paradise as you'll get this side of and volcano crater lakes are heaven. Apart from the eponyall options here, along with mous hotel, of course.

visits to 'Atata's traditional

village, where the resort's staff



and a few days at the 4-star Atlas Hotel including Eurostar, the Train de Grand Vitesse, the Nostalgic Orient Express & a cruise on board the Swiss-managed MS Switzerland his wonderful journey makes use of three great trains, the Eurostarto Paris, the Trainde Crand Vitesse **DEPARTURE DATE & PRICES**

to the Alps, and across the Alps to Lake Maggiore by Nostalgic Orient Express. It's then onwards across the Mediterranean on board the Swiss-managed MS Switzerland calling at the Coted Azur, the island of Menorca laga for the visit to Granada, Cadiz for the visit to Jerez and Seville, Casablanca where we disembark for a visit of the city and onwards towards the Atlas Mountains for a few days in Marrakesh and the return flight

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

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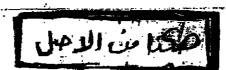
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AIR NEW ZEALAND



Taking paradise by storm

Even Fiji has rain and the odd cyclone, says Stephen McClarence

wet weekend Frinton or Filey is bad enough. A wet weekend in Fiji is worse. The expectations are so much higher.

Halfway through a damp afternoon on the cruise ship, most have retreated to their cabins. A Fijian choir is crooning over the PA it sings of a land of swaying palm trees, gently lapping water, golden beaches and balmy evenings. Outside the cabin window, the rain buckets down over a vision of greyness. Grey sky, grey sea, grey islands, grey honeymooners. On the sun deck, an elderly New Zealand couple unpack umbrellas and plastic rain hoods. They have come back to Fiji after 20 years. It is, they claim, the most beautiful place on Earth.
A few Brits sit around the

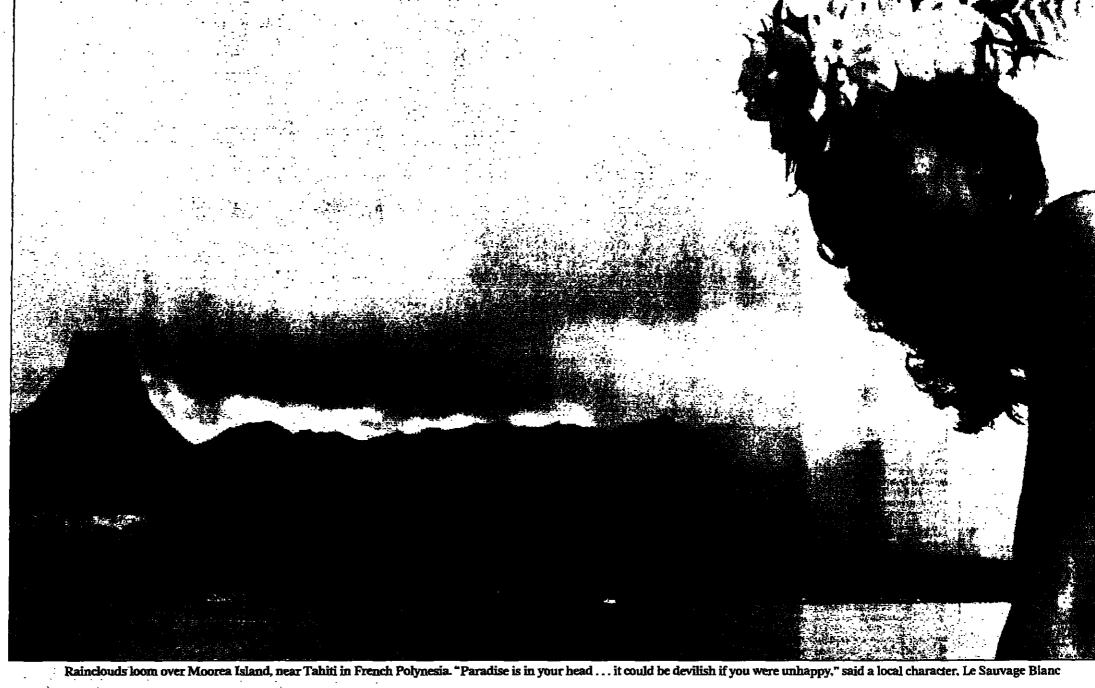
lounge, dunk their teabags and talk about seafront shel-

ters back home. "Enjoy your day," urges the cruise bulletin. 'And keep smiling." The four-day cruise, with the Fiji-based Blue Lagoon company, is the first leg of a whistle-stop tour of paradise - or at any rate of three South Pacific islands claiming to be its last outpost. In 12 days, the tour - mostly by air - takes in Fiji. Tahiti and Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and zips backwards and forwards over the International Date Line, putting a day in credit here and in debit there. "Is it yesterday yet?" asks a bewil-

dered holidaymaker after three or four days. "Yesterday comes after tomorrow," says his fellow time traveller. They keep smiling. It's time for Paradise Mark One - Fiji's tiny Plantation

Island, which an American sailor called Louis Armstrong bought from the Fijians in 1860 for the bargain price of one musket. Prices have spiralled since then. The beach resort now based on the island stages weddings, combining the exotic (Fijian Warrior Eswedding is under way on a terrace next to the bay where a fat man is splashing backwards and forwards in a kayak. The Australian bride is swathed in tulle, the groom wears a wing collar and waistcoat as though for a snooker tournament. The choir (20 Fijian villagers, £64) sings All the Earth Proclaims the Lord with a seductive sweetness. But we are tired and hurry back to the ship.

The MV Mystique Princess is sleek and comfortable, despite the piped muzak. Over a traditional dinner of kokoda - raw fish marinated in coconut milk and lime juice -a crew member enthuses about curried fruit bat and



offers advice on how to behave. "It's tactful." he says, not to mention cannibalism in Fin. Barbecued thigh bone and baked forearm have long been phased out, and westerners' jokes don't go down well." It's a far cry from the 18th century when "Eat me" was the correct way to greet a tribal chief. One chief katu Udreudre, took his subjects at

ext morning, I feel as though I have caten 2,000. The sky is dark, the rain streaks the window and the ship is rolling like a bad Channel crossing. For the first-time in my life, I am seasick. As we dock at Lautoka, Fiji's third town, we encounter a new word: cyclone. Cyclone Gavin blew through here a formight ago; Cyclone Jim is reportedly on his way. Fiji is on Cyclone Alert.

Lautoka is a very Asian town. Indians, for the most part descendants of indentured labourers brought to Fiii in the 19th century, make up a large part of the population. The shops are run by Patels and Rajeeshes, and the buses are named after Ganesh, the Hindu elephant god.

Out of town, beyond cloudy mountains and across networks of railway lines for sugar cane trucks, the stylish First-Landing restaurant-re-sort at Vuda Point displays a 1930s poster that captures the Seas". It shows a lounging Fijian woman with flowers in her hair and a Dorothy Lamour sarong, watching a Pan American flying boat landing with butterfly grace on a hay. It is idyllic, a place to look back in languor.

At the vast Fijian Resort - a whole holiday island - a signpost points the way to Golf/Tennis/Fire-walking. Fire-walking, or "jumping in the oven", is a ritual, traditionally in honour of the spirits, involving walking barefoot on white hot stones without getting burnt. The manager talks about his regular guests, inchiding Noleen Hogan -"Paul Hogan's first wife - you know, Crocodile Dundee. She's been 59 times. She's

totally unpretentious." Late news: Cyclone Jim has merged into Cyclone June and blown past. It prompts nostal-gic tales of Hurricane Fergus.

Next day, we leave at 5.30am for lunch in New Zealand. It's a good stunt — a three-hour flight from Fiji to Auckland, five hours in New Zealand and a four-hour flight on to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands - Paradise Mark Two. The International Date Line ensures we have two consecutive Sundays.

At Rarotonga Airport, young women rush forward with shell necklaces. They wear crowns of flowers so luxuriant that their heads are like hanging baskets. The announcer serenades new arrivals with ukulele songs. Suddenly things look up.

Rarotonga is the sort of island that appears in your dreams. It is dominated by mountains that are towering turrets of rock with serrated spines. Dense jungle blankets the higher slopes but peters out into lush farmland, paw-



Sunday service: there are churches everywhere

SOUTH PACIFIC FACT FILE

■ Stephen McClarence travelled with Austravel and Air New Zealand. Austravel (0171-734 7755) organises a wide range of South Pacific holidays: a 14-night holiday including Tahiti, Moorea, Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Fiji costs from £1,579 per person. Blue Lagoon cruises — bookable through Austravel — cost from E309 per person for three days, including all transfers, meals and activities; a four-day cruise on the Mystique Princess costs from £640.

■ British passport holders do not need visas to visit Fiji, the Cook Islands or Tahiti.

■ Vaccinations are not compulsory for Fiji, the Cook Islands or Tahiti, but check with your GP. E Best times to visit: Fiji: the dry season between June and

November, when there is less risk of tropical cyclones: Cook Islands: pleasant year-round even temperatures but less chance of rain between April and October: Tahiti: June to August when it's driest and coolest.

Which it's desirable and course.

If Further reading: Adventuring in the Pacific (Sierra Club Books, E10.99); Fiji Travel Survival Kit (Lonely Planet, E8.99); Rarotonga & the Cook Islands Travel Survival Kit (Lonely Planet, £6.95); Tahiti & French Polynesia Travel Survival Kit (Lonely Planet, £10.99).

paw plantations, clumps of right ear means married; left mango trees and avocados, starfruit and oranges, and coconut palms with bands of tin nailed round their trunks

Rarotonga is an unpretentious place. Its parliament building is a former construction workers' hostel and the Paramount Queen - one of three elected rulers — lives in a modest palace. "I call her Auntie Ruth," says our bus driver. Why? "She is my Auntie Ruth."

to stop rats climbing up.

He explains the symbolism of the flowers many wear behind their ears: "Behind the

FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

month of peners

ear means single; both ears means desperate." In the modern Roman Cath-

olic cathedral, the service is in Maori. Women in braided coconut leaf hats listen intently as breadfruit trees rustle outside the windows and the sermon is often drowned out by birdsong. The bishop, a New Zealander, is fragrant with flowers. He wears sandals and has a T-shirt under his cassock. The service ends with *Let It Be*, strummed on guitars.

Religion is the backbone of Rarotonga. There are chur-

ches for every shade of Christian belief. Avarua, the island capital - a small sprawl of shops — is dominated by a 19th-century churchyard. The oldest monument is to the Reverand I. Williams of the London Missionary Society. who died in 1839, and "who. with his friend Mr Harris was massacred by deluded natives while attempting to convey to salvation".

The town's museum devotes half-a-dozen glass cases to Captain Cook, who first sighted the islands in 1773, and halfa-dozen more to a collection of shells. Next to the Nicobar Hairy-Triton, the Warty Frog-Shell and the Hailstorm Prickly-Winkle are the Dogwood Drupe, the Crispate Venus, the Ambiguous Mitre and the Mutable Conch.

At the issues desk in the next-door library is Tamara Suchodolsky. She moved here ten years ago. "I was looking for a tropical paradise," she says. "It's the attitude of the people that I like here welcoming and vibrant."

The Cook Islands atmosphere is easy-going, lulling, no worries, no hurries, A 45minute flight away from Rarotonga - and a near-neighbour in Pacific terms - is Aitutaki, an atoll encircling a lagoon of the ultimate in ultramarine. It would be high on anyone's list of desert islands.

At the Lagoon Resort, assistant manager Noel Marsters promises an island tour. He is the great, great grandson of a Gloucestershire mariner who came here on a schooner, jumped ship, married five wives, fathered 12 children and was disowned by his family. The resort manager, Steve Christian, is a descendant of Fletcher Christian, the Bounty mutineer, who discovered many of these islands.

Mr Marsters can't find a bus for the tour, so he heaves two white plastic garden chairs on the back of a pick-up truck. A lady crime novelist and I bounce along like a downmarket king and queen on makeshift thrones. He points out the children

and grandchildren of American Gls stationed here during the war and waves to people standing in the doorways of their pre-fab-style houses. "Europeans often paint themselves a different picture of what they expect, and in some cases they're disappointed." There are no grass skirts now. he says. The only thatched huts are the tourist mock-ups waves wildly at a big man in a bright shirt, shorts and flipflops. "King Tamatoa — either Tamatoa IV or Tamatoa V," he says. The king is sitting on an

Aitutaki is trying to resist pressure to upgrade its airstrip so international charter flights could use it, even though this would boost tourism and provide new employment for the young. There's always a jetty to be mended," says Mr Marsters and heads off to pick up a delivery of tinned beetroot salad and peach slices. "Many tourists come here to do nothing." he "We find it very peculiar "

oil can.

Some do less than nothing

on Tahiti. Paradise Mark Three, where we touch down at 2.30am. On the offshore island of Moorea, the vegetation is even more lush than in the Cooks and four-wheel drives trundle up near-vertical mountain tracks taking tourists from one spectacular view to the next. We lunch at Tiki Village.

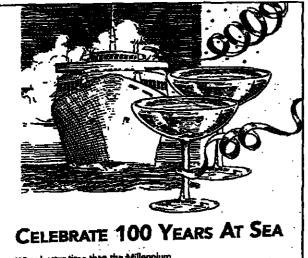
where muscular young men in and shapely young women in coconut-shell bras strum ukuleles. It's the back-to-nature brainchild of Olivier Briac, a former Moulin Rouge choreographer who now calls himself Le Sauvage Blanc. He walks around bare-chested, wears a sarong and has a scarlet hibiscus behind his (right/married) ear.

So is this the ultimate para-dise? Paradise is in your head," he says, flashing a matinee idol smile. "It could be devilish if you were unhappy."
As we wait for the bus to the next resort, the Bee Gees give way to Abba on the village ghetto-blaster, the skies darken and a storm breaks over Paradise. We keep smiling.

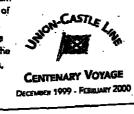
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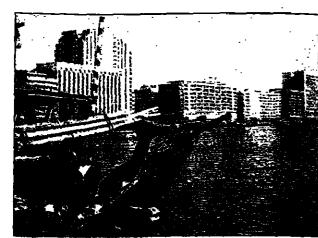
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To buy or not to buy in Dubai



The Creek which cuts through the centre of the city

Dubai's shopping festival draws the big spenders. But bargains can be

> elusive, says Jo Foley

t was sale time in downtown Dubai and we were there to make the most of it. For one month each spring, this Gulf city - one of the seven emirates that forms the United Arab Emirates holds a shopping festival. This year's runs from March 19 to April 18. Last year, three of us. intrepid shoppers to a woman, with at least a black belt each in bargain hunting, took on the malls, markets, souks and

For two days we went back and forth across the Creek (the deep water inlet that cuts through the centre of the city), rushing from bus to boat to taxi, scouring the stalls, mar-kets and marble-and-chrome shopping malls for something

to buy. There are more than a dozen shopping malls in downtown Dubai, housing everything from perfumeries to shoeshops electronics outlets to and children's shops, designer boutiques, supermarkets, record stores and fast-food

All the labels are there: Gucci, Dior, DKNY, Adidas, Recbok, Hugo Boss, Given-

■ Getting there: Jo Foley travelled with City Escapades (brochures 0990 437227, reservation 0181-563 8959), which unti March 31 offers four nights at Le Meridien Jumeira Beach Hotel, including breakfast and BA flights, from £719, or from £759 between April 1-12. During the shopping festival (March 19 — April 18) a three-night package costs from

E644. Prices are per person
based on two sharing.

Climate Average year is 27C, although it can reach 40C in the

Arab Emirates embassy on 0171-581 1281/4113. Clothing: Dubai is a Muslim city and women should avoid wearing anything that is too tight or revealing, while men are expected to wear a top n public. At the beach or by the pool bikinis are acceptable - but not Further reading Wave, E14.99; Middle East on a Shoestring (Lonely Planet, £13.99).

But at the end of two days, our meagre haul amounted to one pair of sandals, one pyone silver torque (a twisted necklace), two silver bangles, five CDs. several grams of saffron, half a kilo of dried rose petals and two pairs of trendy Persol sunglasses which we'd had to fight over. We were speechless with



Red tape: Visas required: contact the United

> More than a dozen shopping malls make downtown Dubai a paradise for bargain hunters. Gold prices are among the cheapest in the world failure. It was not because there was a dearth of goodies in London or Manchester. - it was just because everysize or not to our taste.

All the styles on offer seemed to have been chosen with the indigenous or expatriate market in mind, and were either too shiny, too glittery or too bright for us. Some of them would have looked terrific in

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rtion about the Maltese Islands, call 0171-292-4900.

Marbella or Margate, but not It was the same with the eveshadow has never worked glittering and gleaming, is the sort of place where you might in daylight

And although there were some severely elegant outfits in the Donna Karan boutique. we knew we could get them more cheaply in the United

MALTESE

ISLANDS

The gold, however, was awesome. Gold prices in Dubai are among the cheapest in with every square centimetre

expect Aladdin to meet Midas. While we were there the merchants had thought up a great incentive: for every 500 dirhams spent (£83), your name was entered into a free daily raffle to win a kilo of gold. At the end of the month all the names were entered for the biggest prize - ten kilos of

Not since the great Yukon gold rush did so many go in search of so much. We really tried to buy. We agonised over so many trays of rings, bangles, chains and earrings. One of us nearly parted with

serious money for a pair of drop earrings with pearls, but inspected in the cold light of day they somehow lost their appeal. The gold was of the 22 and 24-carat variety, which is not only the purest but also the brightest yellow - too garish

There were some 18 carat items but they were few and unexciting - little chains and gated bracelets - hence our desperation to splash out when, on the periphery of the main gold souk, we found the silver merchants.

for pallid northern lobes and

The prices were exceptional: about £8 to £12 for heavy, wide bangles and £18 for an elegant

torque.
The CDs were bought in another frenzied attempt to spend - three for just over £18. Other bargains were the saifron which, even though it was a mere £5 for a substantial box, while the rose petals were

almost nothing: £3 for a huge

ag. The chiffon T-shirt was all of a hotel boutique while the sandals - high, black and strappy — were a mere £18. The sunglasses were £38 a pair, almost half what we

would have paid in London. These finds didn't really make up for our retail disappointment, but the raffles did. Dubai Duty Free, at the airport, is renowned for its car raffles, but during the shopping festival there were raffles

For £20 you could win a Porsche, a Mercedes, a BMW or some other piece of serious machinery and as only 1,000 tickets were sold for each contest the odds were extreme-

re became like women posses-sed and even formed a syndicate to treble our chances. while planning how to spend our shared thousands. The real prize in Dubai, however, is the desert, and when the shopping gets too much it's definitely worth a visit.

Tour organisers and operators now offer sand-skiing, dune driving and wadi bashing (driving across dry river beds), but to my mind, all you really need to do is to wonder at the size and silence of it.

About an hour's drive from the city through the desert will bring you to Hatta — an old fort on the edge of a mountain

The surrounding landscape, with its near-Biblical vistas and hidden freshwater pools, is one of the most beautiful you can see anywhere within a seven-hour flight from London





offer discounts which they are not licensed to advertise, so it's worth taking a chance on the less likely-looking places. Keep an eye on the exchange rare and gold prices, listed at the airport, in hotels and in local newspapers. It's worth haggling on gold. Curs of between 10 and 15 per cent are the norm. Unexpected pleasures Expect to find gold, spices and designer-label hargains. Caviar is cheap and widely available. Saffron and exotic oils are very cheap.

Faking it. For designer goods at back-street prices, head to the Karama district, where you'll find realistic reproductions. Good deals to be had on jeans, clothes, shoes and take watches. Knowing your limits: Travellers returning to the UK from non-EU countries have to pay duty on gifts and souve



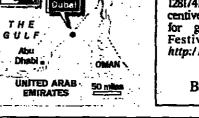
Watch the locals shop

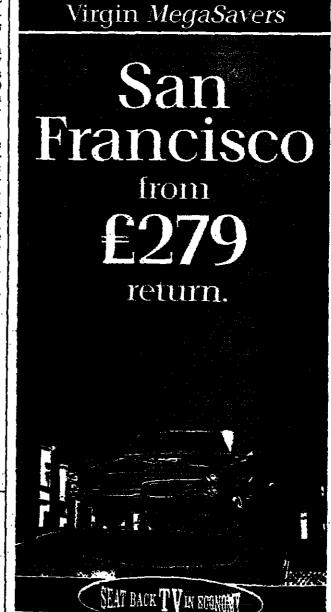
nirs worth more than £145. Duhai Duty Free is famous for its wide selection of leatherware and electronics, as well as the usual spirits, tobaçco yourself plenty of time. Paying your way: Major credit cards are accepted everywhere, and it is easy to exchange sterling or travellers' cheques.

Maximising the experience: Usual shop opening hours are 9am to lpm and 4pm to 9pm. It's cooler at night and the lighting lends a lustre to the gold and jewellery.

Stop off at local shawarma outlets for chicken or lamb with salad stuffed into warm Arabic bread, Most hotels have restaurants with a range of Indian. Thai, Chinese and Filipi no dishes for less than [2. Further information: Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (0171-839 0580): United Arab Emirates Embassy (0171-58) centives (0181-900) 0280), for groups; Shopping Festival Website: http://DubaiSF.com.

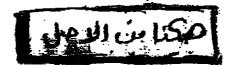
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Maximum Respect for the island

In Jamaica, Trevor Fishlock finds more to see than beautiful beaches and reggae bars

erhaps the best moment was waking at dawn in the hammock slung in the veranda. Daylight snuffed the lingering stars, set the forest birds fluting and made lush theatre of the Blue Mountains.

Horatio Nelson enjoyed this prospect of Jamaica. As a young naval officer, and still in one piece, he guarded the island against the French and enjoyed plantation life - although he did not sleep in the hammock.

Not that I had to. Possibly it was perverse to forsake the magisterial four-poster. But I had slept in the bed the night before, the breeze filtering through the veranda doors, the firellies darting; and since Strawberry Hill is an unconventional hotel, a weightless sleep in the hammock seemed perfectly appropriate.

In a way. Strawberry Hill reminded me of Portmeirion in North Wales, the original unconventional hotel Port-meirion's creator, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, would have admired its commanding position in a botanical garden at 3,000ft with a glorious view over Kingston Harbour.

Sir Clough, master of picturesque vistas, also would have approved of the white-painted wooden cottages set harmoniously into the hillside. There is no air-conditioning, and breezes are lured through louvres and fretwork screens. The screens in my cottage were amusingly erotic and, like the beautiful colonial furniture, were made in the hotel's workshops.

The hotel opened four years ago, the Great House of the old Strawberry Hill plantation having blown away in the hurricane of 1988. Standing so far above the sea, Strawberry Hill provides part of the answer to the question of what. you can do in Jamaica if you like beaches, but only up to a

hen a guest at one of the popular resort hotels asked at reception for Jamaican dollars, the clerk was puzzled. Why would anyone want to leave this enclosed, all-inclusive resort with its pools, restaurants, free bars, and beach fences to keep the hustlers out?

Then she tuned in to the guest's accent. "Ah, British. Yes, sometimes you people like to go outside."

Visitors who do venture beyond the Strawberry Hill complex are shepherded by sure-footed guides up the spectacular Dunn's River Falls, or driven by bike-tour companies to a hilltop from where they freewheel down; others go rafting. Still, the only Jamaicans many tourists see are the waiters and bar staff.

But a few days with a rented car, a map and healthy curiosity reveal possibilities in a marvellous hinterland never explored by coastbound tourists. The mountains, reaching more than 7,000ft, are enthralling and you can walk through forests and among rivers and waterfalls with a sense of real exploration. If you like history to provide ballast to a holiday, there are evocative remnants - fortifications, houses, churches and place names — of the island's historical stewpot of buccaneers, planters, slaves, rebels, missionaries and heroes.

You can trail pirates such as Calico Jack, nicknamed for his taste in underpants, and the gan, who ruled Jamaica as Kingston, where a third of the stemmed from its contents and Welshman Sir Henry Mor-



JAMAICA FACT FILE

Getting there: Trevor Fishlock flew with Air Jamaica (0181-570 7999), which flies from London to Kingston four times a week. Apex fares start at £741 plus £20 departure tax. Non-Apex returns from £861, £20 departure tax.

He stayed at Strawberry Hill and Goldeneye, operated by Island Outpost. Reservations: 0800 614790. Accommodation at Goldeneye ranges from £390, plus Government tax of 22.5 per cent per day, to £3,000 plus tax for Ian Fleming House. One oom at Strawberry Hill costs from £150 per day plus tax for two people sharing.

Wisas are not necessary for British or Irish passport holders and visitors are generally allowed to stay for up to six months providing they have a valid passport and proof of onward travel. The departure tax is £9. The Jantaican High Commission can answer queries on 0171-823 991L

Best time to go: The peak tourist season is from mid-December to mid-April when the rainfall is appealingly low. There is high humidity in the summer, particularly during September and October.

Tourist affractions include Carnival (this year from March 30 to Anvil 6) with parades, music and culture in Monteso Bay. Ocho Rios and — hottest of all — Kingston, where the week of festivities climates on April 5 with hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans taking to the streets for a colourful and musical

Throughout the week there will performances from some of an's best known and loved soca and reggae bands. Purther information and reading Jamaica Tourist Board (0171-224 0805). Jamaica: the Rough Guide (Rough Guides, £9.99): Jamaica Visitor's Guide, (Macmillan, £6,95); Pocket Jamaica (Fodor's Travel Publications, £7.99).



governor and died here. As a young man, Nelson com-manded Fort Charles on Kingston Harbour, and a marble tablet in his honour gently admonishes: "You who tread his footprints. Remember his glory."

Above all, there is the pleasure of country roads, lesserknown beaches and meeting Jamaica's unhurried people. Posters everywhere proclaim that you are never far from music and dancing. A reggae party poster promised "This Will Be A Total Niceness".

Violence in the capital of

live, is a stain on Jamaica's reputation. But most of the island is safe and agreeable, and in Kingston itself, trouble is mostly rooted in waterfront districts where bitter gang rivalry thrives.
"We are voluble people," Sir
Howard Cooke, the 82-year-

old governor-general told me.

country's 2.5 million people

"Usually there is more noise than venom, though sometimes because of politics, it is just venom." Bob Marley, the reggae superstar, grew up in a Kingston ghetto and his music

suffering. His image is every-where in Jamaica and his home in Kingston, with its recording studio, library and collection of best-selling records, is a temple. There's a pleasant little restaurant there and I recommend the brown chicken stew.

A painted cement statue of Marley commands the en-trance and inside are his bed, guitars, slippers, rooms pa-pered with fading news cuttings and prize-winning discs. You can also see the holes in the wall made by bullets during the attempt on his life in 1976, five years before his death from cancer. "Bob," remarked his widow Rita Marley, "is still lighting sparks around the world. Here, we keep the flame

alive. After two sybaritic nights at Strawberry Hill, we drove over the Blue Mountains, descending the wriggly potholed road to Buff Bay on the northeast coast. We swam at the Blue Lagoon near Port Antonio, an old banana town with luxurious villas and hotels, which still trades on the name of the old roue Errol Flynn, who playboyed round

The Roof Club, which filled our skulls with rhythm, was a spirited but well-ordered nightspot with a sign warning: "Forbidden To Smoke Ganja in Here". Elsewhere on the island, you don't travel far without encountering that certain sniff of what many Jamaicans regard as the holy herb.

Heading west on the coast road, we stopped frequently in villages, markets, old colonial buildings, churches and cafés. We ate goat curry, salt fish and ackee, the fruit which cooks like scrambled egg. We had a morning's riding in the forest of the 18th-century Prospect Plantation.

One hot afternoon we met Samuel proprietor of a go-go bar at Annotto Bay. There were no customers. A bored bar-girl was watching television. Samuel sat in front of a mural depicting Haile Selassie and Marley, the Rastafarian heroes. He was studying a well-thumbed Bible. I read it every day. It has all I need: psychology, biology, history

It helped to have a few words of the latest vocabulary, like "Everyting cris," meaning everything's fine, and the parting salutation "Respect," to which the correct response is Maximum Respect".

The word bashment I took to mean a bash, a party, but Rose Campbell, who invited us to the Day and Night Jam and domino tournament at her bar in an old railway station, said she herself would be the bashment. "So," I asked, "What does bashment mean?" "It means," Rose said, "that I will be wearing a sexy

the White Cliffs.

and Gala Dinner.

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including the attractive Old

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wine tasting with our wine

Day 5 At sea. Enjoy a

Day 6 Our destination today is magnificent Santiago de Compostela.

Day 7 Oporto. We explore

the Stock Exchange with its Arabian Hall and a leading

port house. Or ivin our visit to

the Palace of the Dukes of

Days 8 & 9 We enjoy the

fascinating city of Lisbon, which, according to legend,

Braganza at Guimaraes.

cookery demonstration.

some ugly, where shuttling cruise ships disgorge their crowds. We escaped to Noël Coward's hilltop refuge, the house called Firefly on Henry Morgan's old Llanrumney

he house Coward built is much as it was when he died in his four-poster mahogany bed in 1973. His simple grave is in the garden, where he used to have his sunset drink, looking out over the sublime view. The house is full of photo-

graphs of Coward and has some of his paintings too. The sheet music of A Room With A set as it was when he entertained the Queen Mother to lunch in 1965. Paper is rolled into the typewriter on the desk, shirts hang in the wardrobe and on a bookshelf is that most merciful of instruments, a backscratcher.

Not far away, at Goldeneye, the house near Oracabessa where Ian Fleming wrote his James Bond stories, we had-lunch beneath almond trees and swam from the private beach. The house is let for £3,000 a night.

The nearby cottage cluster secluded in a grove of trees is another unconventional hotel. Like Strawberry Hill, it is the creation of Chris Blackwell,

baby grand pianos. A table is who, as Bob Marley's producer-promoter, brought Jamaican music to the world. And, like Strawberry Hill, it is designed by the Jamaican architect, Ann Hodges, and built by local craftsmen.

Strawberry Hill has made no money yet and a spa is being added to attract more visitors. But Mr Blackwell is prepared to wait. "Naturally, I would like it to make a profit soon, but my rule is never to cut corners," he says. "As in my music, my approach is not to rush but to let things grow organically."

It's a good philosophy for visiting Jamaica, too. Slow down, get off the beaten track

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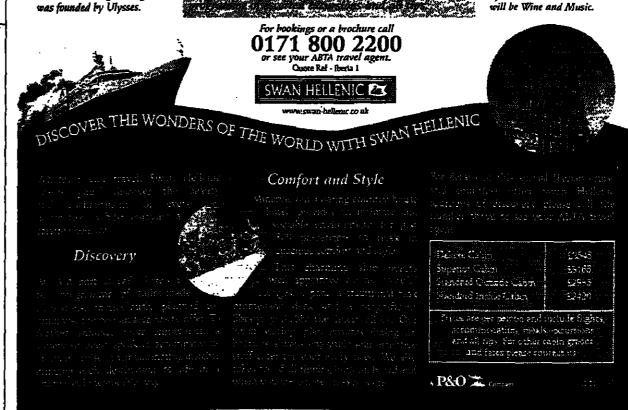
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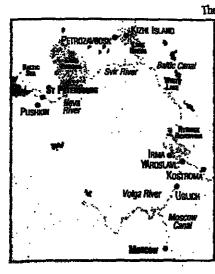


Ski touring in Switzerland is still as tough as it was in Conan Doyle's day. "You must not fall over, and you must not stop," snapped our guide

ANCIENT RUSSIA and its Waterways

visit to Russia for the genuine traveller is one of life's great experiences. So many just dip their toes in the water with a brief visit to Moscow or St Petersburg which is interesting enough in its own way. However, for a comprehensive experience, there is nothing like a two week trip which includes both Moscow and St Petersburg, together with the cities of the Golden Ring and the delights of the changeless Russian countryside.

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Elementary way to climb the mountain



You naturally expect trouble when you are beginning.' Conan Doyle wrote

n March 23, 1894, Arthur Conan Doyle made history by crossing the Maienfelder Furka pass from Davos to Arosa on skis. He left under "a great pale moon in a violet sky", a Renaissance man carrying 8ft "Norwegian snowshoes" on his shoulder. His companions were Switzerland's ski pioneers. Tobias and Johannes Branger, respectively a saddler and a ummer mountain guide.

As the spring sun rose over the mountains, the trio strapped on their snowshoes with makeshift leather bindings and fell into a rhythm for the trudge up to the 2,440m pass. In the late morning, they descended through deep pow-der, arriving at the Hotel See-

feld in time for hunch. A piece of cake, or so it seemed more than 100 years later in the bar of the Hotel Flüela as our guide told us the itinerary for the next day. After breakfast, we would take the bus from Davos to Franciskirch to start our adventure, whereas Conan Doyle had walked. We would climb on touring skis with skins, whereas he used rudimentary string nets to prevent his skis from slipping back-wards. We had the best weatherproof clothing, whereas he wore a Harris tweed outlit that his tailor had assured him was indestructible. The trip to Arosa would prove this boast wrong. "He [the tailor] will find samples of his ware on view from the Furka Pass to Arosa," Conan Doyle wrote in an account of the journey in

in Davos as a guest of Swiss

Travel Service (01992 456123). Hotel Flücia, seven

nights' half board, from E712 including scheduled flights, with availability in March and April: 1998-99

winter holidays booked before March 31 will be at

Classic can be arranged through the Swiss Ski School in Davos Dorf (00 41

81 416 2454). A mountain guide costs £115 a day (for

one to three people). Details: Davos Tourist

Office (00 41 81 415 2221).

Many Const Doyle

Meiringen, in the eastern Bernese Oberlan site of the Reichenbach Falls where Sherlock Holmes and the evil

Morianty plunged to their fictional deaths.
British Holmes fans

pilgrimage there in May the Sherlock Holmes

Society, 0181-540 7657 or 01689 811314, has details),

and there is a small Sherlock Holmes Muser

in Meiringen (00 41 33 971 4141).

make an occasional

sts are drawn to

■ The Conan Doyle

1997-98 prices.

Strand Magazine. Conan Doyle's two-year flirtation with Davos began in the autumn of 1893 when he booked his wife, Louise, into one of the sanatoriums for which the town was famous. At 35, he was at the peak of his powers, as a doctor and scientist as well as a novelist, vet he readily gave it all up for the slim hope of caring Louise's tuberculosis. He sold his house and furniture, left their two young children with his mother and killed off Sherlock Holmes — only temporarily, it transpired — to concentrate on his beloved "Touie".

When she began to recover, he found time to follow up Tobias Branger's advertisement for the "snowshoes" he had imported from Norway in 1890. The Branger brothers'

The creator of Sherlock Holmes

was one of the first skiers,

Minty Clinch reports



first attempts to teach themselves to ski excited so much ridicule that they preferred to practise at night, but by the time Conan Doyle knocked on their door, they had developed an effective technique for braking using a long pole. The

novelist was not so sure. "You naturally expect trouble when you are beginning. disappointed," he wrote, "but as you get on a little, the thing becomes more irritating. The skis are the most capricious things upon the earth. One day you cannot go wrong with them; on another, with the same weather and the same snow, you cannot go right. For a man who suffers from too much dignity, a course of Norwegian snowshoes would have a fine moral effect."

Quite so. I tried to take his words to heart as we left civilisation, initially for a for-est trail, then for the open spaces near the top of the pass as deserted as in Sir Arthur's

As we rose into a whiteout, our guide suffered a panic attack. "You must not fall over," he snapped, "and you must not stop." In the face of a nippy little wind that flayed our faces, we completed the 940m climb in four hours and started our descent.

Conan Doyle described a 50to 60 degree slope ending in an absolute precipice, where a slip might have been serious". As good guides should, the Brangers walked below

him for half a mile to break his fall if need be.

Then came "the real sport of snowshoeing: we shot along over gently dipping curves, skimming down the valley without a motion of our feet. in that great untrodden waste, with snowfields bounding vision on every side, and no marks of life save the track of chamois and foxes, it was glorious to whiz along in this easy fashion."

More precipices awaited further down, so steep that the Brangers lashed their skis together to fashion impromptu tohoggans. "Sitting on our skis, with our heels dug into the snow and our sticks pressed hard down behind us, we began to move down the precipitous face of the pass," Conan Doyle wrote. "I think both my companions came to grief over it. I know they were as white as Lot's wife at the

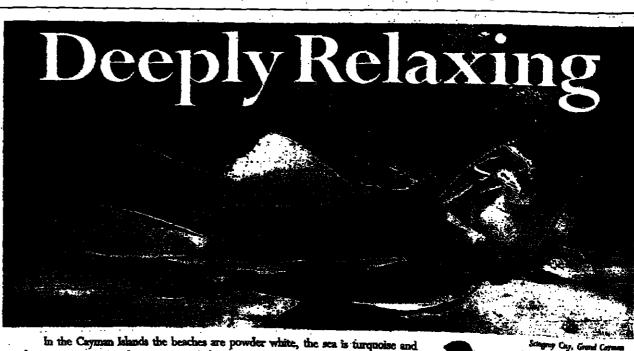
With modern techniques and equipment, the precipio factor was much reduced and we worked our way down over a glittering sheen of ice covering pockets of false snow.

urn, turn," cried our guide, obsessed with getting back to bar as soon as possible. I reflected on lunch in the Seefeld Hotel and let caution rule, but the guide had the last laugh as we stopped on the banks of the lake at Arosa. Where was the town? Triumphantly, he pointed up the hill. Forty torturous minutes later we were snatching a beer at the railway station before the three-hour journey back to Davos. A wizened ancient then explained that it was possible to take a lift up the Strela pass and ski down to Arosa without breaking sweat.

Conan Doyle made the trip in reverse four days later. Within a month, he had climbed the Bramabuel on the other side of the Davos valley. "I am convinced," he wrote, "that the time will come when hundreds of Englishmen will come to Switzerland for the skiing season. I believe I may be the first, save only two Switzers, to do any mountain work but I am certain I will

How right he was: the Bramabuel T-bar is there to

not by many thousands be the



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SALL BURNEY

Have baby, will travel with ease

Sean Coughlan wanted to take
his family to Paris - but would the train or plane be least stressful?



the couple travelling with the baby from hell. Whether it's in a departure lounge or a railway station, there's always the same grim scene of a caterwauling infant flanked by exhausted parents, often covered in baby yoghurt and shouting bitter recriminations at each other. The only remaining issue is whether they ring the dry cleaners or the divorce lawyers first.

Travelling with a baby that has decided it doesn't want to travel can be a chilling experience. So any attempt to ease the path of the parental traveller is to be warmly welcomed. On the keenly competitive London-to-Paris route, where every passenger counts, both Eurostar and the airlines have taken steps to attract parents with young children.

But how do they really compare? Travelling with our six-month-old daughter, said friends, would be about as relaxing as taking a hungry goat around a supermarket. There'd be chaos, tantrums and tears. There'd be no access for the pushchair. The baby would hate the long train journey and scream her way through take-off and landing. There'd be parental anget in abundance.

In practice, when my wife Estelle and I tested both journeys, our fears proved unfounded as both Eurostar and Air France were reassuringly well-equipped. Anna, our baby test pilot, dozed untroubled through much of both journeys, lulled by the motion into sleep. And the facilities in Heathrow and on board the train made feeding and changing relatively has-

sle-free. Where both journeys became much more difficult was the getting to and from city centres and airports and rail-way stations. Travelling with a haby in a pushchair on a crowded tube to Heathrow is a slow-motion glimpse of purgatory. In Paris, the journeys from Charles de Gaulle and

All set to go: Sean Coughlan and six-monthold Anna (above) board the train for the Paris leg of the iourney

The Coughlans' journey was relatively easy (right), despite warnings to the contrary from friends





Buggy been there, done that. Air and rail travel was manageable, and fun, for all

IT MUST be

some new

kind of paren-

tal rite of pas-

Gare du Nord into the city centre were made miserable by underground stations designed like obstacle courses for anyone with a pushchair, with sheer-drop escalators, staircases and unmanned ticket turnstiles over which the pushchair and baby had to be

ff a winner had to be selected, it would have to be the train, if only by a narrow margin. Although the flight itself was fast and comfortable, getting to Heathrow and the processing time made the journey feel much longer and as a consequence more irritating for our infant traveller. In contrast, the seamlessness of the trip on the Eurostar train seemed to soothe the baby.

the Huggies.

sage change nappy while travelling at high speed be-neath the English Channel. While the Eurostar train belted through the Channel Tunnel, I was getting to work with

Each Eurostar train has a baby changing room, with mat, sink and nappy bags. As well as changing nappies, on the evening that we travelled the room was being used by parents dressing their babies for bed. The three-hour journey is long enough for children to settle down to sleep and our carriage, which had other families with young children, soon resembled a mobile

dormitory. On the downside, you are stuck on the train for three hours, with no way of breaking the journey. So if your baby decides that train isn't the way to travel, then you're in trouble.

The only way to change the scenery is to take the baby on a tour of the train, with such limited diversions as a trip to the buffet.

As well as selling cold drinks to soothe adult brows, the staff in the buffet were also happy enough to warm up a bottle of baby food in their microwave oven, although with the observation that an earlier attempt had caused a baby-food explosion in what sounded like a noxious cheese-

flavoured Chernobyl. It's difficult to generalise about how babies react to new surroundings, but our daughter took to the journey without a murmur. It helps that there's almost no hanging around in the terminal beforehand, with passport control being on the train and checking-in being limited to putting a ticket into

a gate.

The hardest part of the journey was trying to get out 13 hours. The winner of the



London Marathon could have

journey are almost all the

ingredients you need for a

parents registering stress lev-

major baby meltdown, with

els high enough to show up on

But once we arrived at Heathrow's Terminal Two

things began to look up. In

terms of baby facilities the

terminal designers seem to

clean changing rooms in the

There were impressively

have done their homework.

the Richter scale.

of the underground system and into the mainline station run there faster. at Gare du Nord. There were ... A pushchair and a slow, no staff to open the ticket barrier to allow us to take the pushchair through.

If two people are travelling with a child it is possible for one person to go through the gate while the second deals with baby and pushchair. But if you were travelling alone. I don't see how you would get through.

Waterloo was much better organised for pushchair traffic, with a lift from the international to the mainline station and staff at the ticket gates in the tube station. Babies seem to come with

an in-built, and very sensitive, stress detector and the Eurostar journey, taken as a whole, left our offspring smiling rather than howling.

BYPLANE



THE greatest disadvantage of taking the plane is the which the air-

lines have least control: the trip to Heathrow. We live 18 miles from the airport, in South London, and the journey by train and tube took us

PARIS FACT FILE ■ The Coughlan family travelled by

Eurostar and Air France. Eurostar trains (0990 186186) travel London to Paris 16 times a day. Adult fares from £69 return; children three and under go free.

Air France (0181-742 6600) [lies to

Paris 14 times a day from Heathrow and five times from London City Airport. Adult fares are from £88 return (plus £17 airport tax), with 10 per cent rcharge for children under 2.

Useful reading: Travel with Children (Lonely Planet, £6.95); Around and About Paris by Thirza Vallois (Had Books, £12.95); Paris (Cadogan City Guides, £12,99).

bottle-warmer and sink. stop-start, overcrowded Tube If you need baby food, there's a branch of Boots here, so you can pop bottled Parsnip

> your duty-free bags. and, in terms of accessibility, ing alternative routes. Also smoothing the way was the

main terminal and departure lounge, with changing mats, a

Bake and Egg Custard into Escalators and stairs are the great enemy of pushchairs, there were ramps and lifts throughout the terminal offer-

fact that we were able to keep the pushchair until we reached the departure gate.

where it was checked in separately. This might not soundmuch, but if you've been stuck on a tube with a baby rehears. ing for a Munch painting, this is some kind of parent heaven.

The flight took little more than 40 minutes and our. daughter slept in her mother's arms throughout (there was no separate seat-belt), untroubled by take-off or landing Staff at the check-in and one board were helpful and, as a small perk, parents with young children were given a bag with baby wipes, baby lotion and a teething toy.

Getting to our hotel on the Left Bank was less straightforward. The lift at the airport terminal in Paris was broken. which meant carrying baby and pushchair downstairs: Again, getting on and off the RER suburban rail system meant hauling baby and pushchair over ticket barriers. vhich were all unattended.

If the flight could be isolated from the rest of the journey. one could recommend flying for any baby-toting parents. But the largest part of the journey was spent on underground trains or in airports. so the plane comes a close second to the ease and comfort



Restaurants, bar, airconditioned rooms: TV, minibar, phone, bath/ shower. (Single rooms have shower only). ASIA. Bangkok: gussi medium class hotel, centrally located near

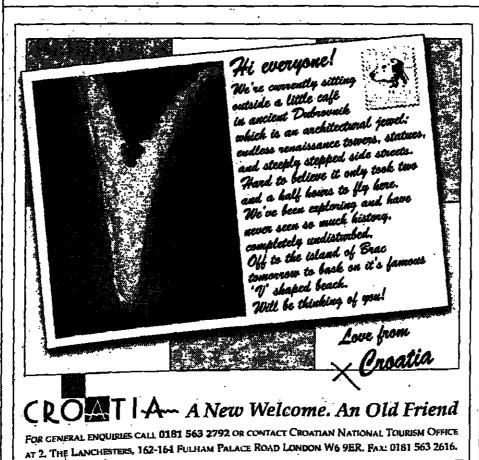
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Lesley Chamberlain joined a trail ride in Scotland, while Lin Jenkins took her own horse on holiday to Hampshire

Horsing around in the forest

ttempting to dress five fidgeting bodies in travelling clothes and fit A bodies in traveling them and their holiday baggage irritating. into our lorry began to get irritating. Sensing the excitement in the air and the urgency to be away, the playful five took turns to kick, scream, run around and refuse to budge an inch. Their five owners behaved little better.

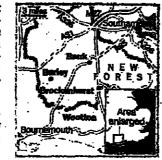
Packing everything from protective boots and back-saving numnahs to waterproof rugs and first aid kit, as well as bales of hay and sacks of pony nuts, took ages. But finally the horses were in the lorry and the holiday was under way.

Five of us were taking our horses on holiday to the New Forest, where we were joining two friends. Within minutes of arriving at Brockenhurst, the horses were tacked up and enjoying their first foray away from Surrey's suburbia. The transition proved entertaining. Crumbs, a goodhatured gelding, had found the ignominy

too much to bear. Hardly had the first venture into the wilds begun when he plucked a discarded sandwich from the grass. It seemed fitting when later it was Crumbs who attached his shoe to an empty Coke can. The detritus of the tourists who visit Britain's oldest forest is

all too visible near the roadside. But within minutes, on a horse, the traffic noise fades away and only the wildlife troubles the peace. Since riders are allowed anywhere in the forest, even within the enclosures where the fences ensure that native ponies do not eat the trees, you can explore for hours.

For some of the horses it proved a puzzling experience. Sweetie, a failed



a second career, planted her feet on the ground and snorted on first seeing a river. The only running water such a pampered creature had previously encountered had come from a hosepipe. After a tantrum and display of acrobatics exclusive to those who are so highly bred as to be deficient of

common sense, she eventually dipped a toe in the water. But drink from it she would not. Only during the lunch break at a pub, where the water came from a tap and was served by the barman in a plastic bucket, would she drink it. Some of her less well-bred companions showed no such compunction. Zero, a four-year-old cob, threw himself in the river with such

avoided a ducking.

The sight of herds of New Forest ponies roaming free caused their domesticated cousins to stand astonished and brace themselves ready to bolt in the opposite direction, and a quiet canter on springy turf turned into a rodeo act when a bullock bounced carelessly out of the bracken and into our path.

Twice as many British adults ride as go skiing, and the number of places offering bed and breakfast for both horse and rider is growing rapidly. We stayed at Ford Cottage — E3 a night for each horse in a field (we had brought hay and feed with us) and £18 a head for human B&B in the adjoining house.

The horses returned home looking fitter and sleeker. However, I put an inch on my waistline and blisters on my backside.



Lin Jenkins, left, with friends and horses enjoying a pub lunch in the New Forest

The BHS also publishes

E Lin Jenkins stayed at

Ford Cottage Stables, Brockenhurst, Hampshir

found in the equestrian we magazine Horse & Hound (£1.45, available from

newsagents) or through local riding centres.

that it fits and is not

M Equipment A riding hat is recommended — ensure

damaged. Proper riding boots, or at least boots with heels, are also advisable. Trainers

(01590 623043).

SADDLE SAVVY: HORSEY HOLIDAYS

Hoofing it across the Highlands



the only important question asked in the minibus was: "What are the horses like?" We were on our way to the farm near Huntly, Aberdeenshire. An hour later, galloping off on the first leg of our marathon ride across Scotland, it was quite clear that our equine friends were the real thing

My 16-hand bundle of enthusiasm came with hearty advice on how to survive the next ten days: "Barney likes to arrive first." He certainly did but, to be fair, he gave his own warning: a little buck and a whinny of delight before every long green stretch. By the end I felt he had been worth every penny of the holiday cost.

Be warned, though: the beautifully mannered, fit hunters that Fiona Hill uses trail definitely demand experienced riders. However, if you are comfortable at all horsey paces, this holiday offers a rare chance to see some fabulous scenery while putting your riding skills and endur-

ance to the test. The trail from Huntly follows the River Deveron before crossing over the heatherbedded grouse moors and skirting Glenfiddich Forest. At the first night's stop, the riders collapsed in a comfortable hotel in the highest Highland village of Tomintoul, while the horses grazed in fields nearby.



The author Lesley in action

Highland Horseback's driver Hugh brought the luggage in a support vehicle. Day two began deceptively

easily, with a brisk trot up to the local distillery for samples but by six in the evening we had climbed strangely high, with only distant deer and curlews for company, and covered about 25 miles. The whisky smugglers of old, with their pack ponies, surely managed those steep paths with less exhaustion than we did.

Sandy paths through the pines of the ancient Caledonian forest softened the next day's approach to the Cairngorm Mountains, and there were some long, smooth gallops. Via the green and pebbly open spaces of Glen Feshie, and a spectacular pic-



nic lunch on the summit, we earned our rest day with a long trek down towards the granite town of Kingussie. This was the place to visit the laundrette, take a gentle stroll and enjoy the delicious meals

the Osprey Hotel. We moved off west sur-

rounded by flocks of grouse scuttling across the private estates, soon to be targets of the gun. Our aim was to keep ourselves well out of range. On day six we reached the summit of the Corrieyairack Pass, after miles of mud underfoot and swirling mist round our hats. General Wade's 250year-old road, built to subdue the Highlanders, had disintegrated into uneven stones and rivulets, but Barney still broke

prepared by the Burrows at into a trot up a near-vertical bit. Later, we enjoyed a long and glorious canter down towards Fort Augustus and a

glearning Loch Ness. All the way to Loch Duich, where the island of Skye hovers just offshore, the landscape kept changing. We cantered through forests, trudged through bogs and gasped at the waterfall-strewn wilder-

As a rider with long experience but little recent practice, I felt nervous initially, but I never wondered why I was

there. I appreciated the faintly military discipline, with morning and evening grooming and feeding, and heavy tack to carry. Age is no barrier, but it certainly helps to be fit.

LC ● Fiona Hill arranges trail rides from May to September. The ride across Scotland, including meals and accommodation, costs El.080. Contact: Highland Horseback, Cairnargat, Glass, Huntley, Aberdeenshire AB54 4XA (01466700304).

M Packages: Creek Pony Collection (01326 280297) offers a week's riding and accommodation at a farm near E Further information: The British Horse Society (01203 696697) publishes Bed and Breakfast for Horses (£4.95, plus 75p postage). This lists more than 300 piaces around Britain which can accommodate both rider and accommodate both rider and Heiston in Cornwall for E350 (adults and children), all meals included. In the Saddle (01256 851665) has a week's riding and mount. Prices start at C3 a night per horse and £16 a night accommodation near Okehampton in Devon in April for E350 (adults and The BHS also publishes Where to Ride (15.95, plus 75p postage). This has details of riding centres that provide horses for you to hire (available from the bookshop at the British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LR: telephone: 01203 600676. children), all meals included. It also has a week in Alemejo in Portugal in April for £595 (adults and children). including flights and all meals Foxcroft Riding Holidays (01509 813252) has a week's pushy 813:24 mas a week s riding, staying at a 300-year-old country house in Co Tipperary, in April for £595 (adults and children, inchedin meals, but not flights). A weekend in Normandy in April is £195, including meals but not ferry crossit M Getting there: Details of commercial companies which transport horses can be theas out not lerry crossing. It also has packages to Turkey, Italy and Spain. Impravel (01653 628811) has a weekend's riding in the Lothian Hills in Scotland in April from £150, all meals

M Other operators:
Andalucia Trails (01892
730706), Paccarine
Equitour (0186 511642), Ride
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Ranch America (018) 868 2910)
and Highland Horsebick (01466 700304)



Hacking out riders enjoying the open countryside

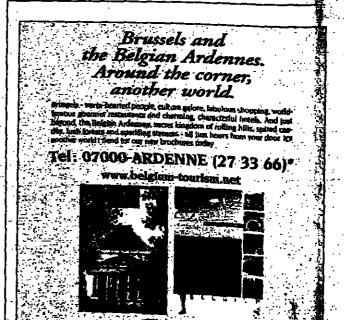
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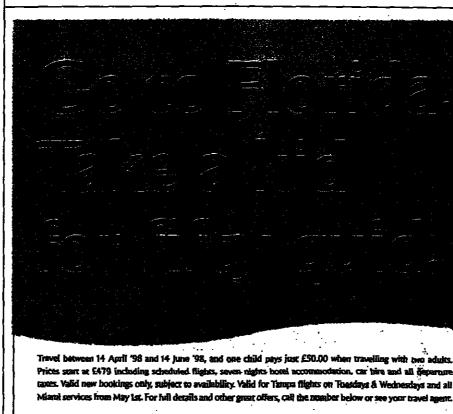
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Anjana Ahuja missed the recent solar eclipse, but she is determined to see next year's

Star gazers fazed, but not eclipsed

he thought of a cloudy Caribbean day on February 26 would not have bothered most holidaymakers unduly.

But for many amateur astronomers, including my husband and I. it was a disaster. It meant that our visit to Antigua to view that most rare and spectacular of astronomical

events — a total solar eclipse — had ended in failure.

Total solar eclipses happen only every couple of years at different locations around the world. Because the path of totality - from where the eclipse can be seen - is very narrow, some eclipses can only be seen from the ocean. This is why the ones that take place over land attract thousands of eclipsechasers, especially from America.

When it transpired that such an event was to grace the islands of Antigua, Guadeloupe, Aruba, Curacao and Montserrat (plus a swath of South America) last month, we, and thousands of others, booked our first international astronomical adventure. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes exactly in front of the Sun, briefly turning day into night. It also gives people a chance to observe the corona surrounding the Sun, an everpresent magnificent halo of light — featuring streaks, loops and streamers — that is normally drowned by the Sun's brightness.

It didn't take loop housever for our confidence in the agure

streamers — that is normally drowned by the Sun's brightness. It didn't take long, however, for our confidence in the azure Antiguan skies to dissolve. We had already noted the paucity of weather reports — we tuned in to several radio stations to try to find the best spot on the island for watching it only to hear crackly prayer sessions by islanders convinced that the momentary darkness wrought by the eclipse spelt Armageddon. With only three hours to go before the showdown, the appearance of a few large, fast-moving rainclouds made weather reports all the more urgent. Armed with our solar weather reports all the more urgent. Armed with our solar eclipse glasses (never, ever watch the Sun directly), we stayed put, hoping the clouds would clear. We were mistaken.

After the darkness had passed, we compensated by downing a few cocktails. Other astronomers, some of whom had struck lucky at less cloudy locations, assured us it was all part of the game, which is why actually seeing a total solar eclipse is regarded as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

e had several consolations. At least we had not attempted the March 1997 eclipse over Siberia and Mongolia, where irate visitors had to endure cloudy skies. We had already seen England win a Test match, gyrated to the Trinidad carnival, and now we were drowning our sorrows at the couples-only resort Sandals, possibly the most flamboyant hotel on the island.

Moreover, we will get another chance next year. The total solar eclipse on August 11, 1999, grazes the southernmost tip of Cornwall. Many hotels and guesthouses are already booked. but we have every intention of travelling down there. If it cludes us again, then it's South Africa in 2001. But who knows - the Cornish heavens might yet deliver the blue skies that the Caribbean couldn't.

Anjana Ahuja travelled with Sandals Antigua (0800 742742) Seven-day all-inclusive packages start at £2,910 per couple, including midweek BA flights. The price also includes all watersports. * For information about the 1999 eclipse in Cornwall, call the Cornwall Tourist Board on 01872 274057.



Sunspotters: Two Colombian Arhuaco Indians watch the solar eclipse through dark glasses

P&O Stena merger may push up rices

PASSENGERS could end to being "ripped off" when P&O and Steria Line start a joint cross-Channelderry service on-Tuesday, according to consumer groups, Tom_ Chesshyre writes.

The long-awaited merger between the two biggest cross-Channel operators was given the go-ahead last month by Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, following investigations by the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The new company, P&O Stena Line, will be allowed to trade without any price-capping until March

However, the Consumers Association is concerned that ticket prices could be hiked. A spokeswoman said: "This merger has created a monopoly situation. Let's hope they don't start shoving up prices. There should be a regulatory laxly that is able to cap prices over the next three years." The merger means that the

s at Laurence County

per (cent) share of the cross-Channel market Sea France, a master operator, expressed company that this share might increase as P&O Stena Line would have a "dominant market position, which goes against fair competition.

BUT OTHER rivals, including Eurotunnel (operators of Le Shuttle) and Hoverspeed, have welcomed the move, saying it would create more stable cross-Channel prices.

P&O Stena Line announced reduced "Early Booking" summer prices in a bid to counter criticism. For example, a return fare for a car and up to nine passengers on the Dover-Calais route, for any length of stay on the Conti-nent, costs £98 if booked and paid for by March 31 — £61 less than the previous price. We're glad the merger has

finally happened," said a spokesman. "Together we will be able to provide a better

Foreign Office advice on Egypt is 'too cautious'

our operators are complaining that Foreign Office travel advice for Egypt is over-emphasising the threat of terrorism and dis-

couraging tourists, Tom Chesshyre writes. The Foreign Office last changed its travel advice for Egypt on December 10, less

than a month after the massa-

cre of 58 holidaymakers including six British nationals - by Islamic terrorists at Luxor. But operators say that it is outdated, as Egypt has since increased security.

The December 10 advice reads: "Since the Luxor incident extremist groups have threatened further attacks against tourists: these threats should be taken seriously Visitors are advised to take great caution when visiting the Nile Valley south of and including Minya Province."



Akhetmehu's tomb, Giza, opened this week

But Declan Morton, of Hayes and Jarvis (which used to take 450 tourists a week to Luxor, but now sends 30), thinks the language is too strong. He said: I can understand that the Foreign Office wants to take a cautious position, but it does not reflect the actual situation facing

tourists in Egypt."
Somak Holidays suspended its Luxor programme following last November's massacre, but plans to restart it in July. An official said: "What I would like to know is why the Foreign Office has not changed its advice. An update is definitely due."

A Foreign Office spokesman admitted that changes to the wording were being considered. However, he added: "At the moment we consider the advice to be an accurate report of the facts. It would be wrong not to point out the track record of terrorism in Egypt." First Choice is the only major British tour operator that has not gone back into Egypt. Eleven other big operators have either already returned or are taking bookings.

However, demand has fallen by more than 90 per cent for some holiday packages. "There are now some very good bargains," pointed out a spokeswoman for Kuoni.

Egypt's Ministry of Culture announced last month that it is putting up electric fences around archaeological sites in Luxor, Aswan and Edfu.

Samia Khafaga, director of the Egyptian State Tourist Office in London, said: The Foreign Office has got to change its advice now. Many security measures have been put in place which make another attack very unlikely."

Majorca makeover will improve the island image

a makeover, which demolishing some of the ugly, mass-market hotels, Tom Chesshyre writes. Two years ago Calvia Council, responsible for resorts including Magaluf in southern Majorca, began a £73-million campaign to get rid of the tackiest hotels — the first to go was the Hotel Atlantic, a lager-lout haven in Magaluf.

Now the Balearic Islands Government has passed a decree forcing hotel developers to buy a "deteriorated" hotel before they can build a new one. This way, new hotels (which must be at least four-star) will be built on the existing sites.

Last year 2,879,600 British tourists visited Majorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera islands - the second highest number of visitors from any country.

A spokeswoman for tour operator Thomson said: "It's fine, as long as prices don't get hiked up. The Government should also be aware that some people prefer to stay in small hotels that are

THE snow is back: those keen to take advantage of it should contact Ski Esprit (01252 616789). Seven nights' full board in either Chamonix or Morzine is from £378 per person, including return flights from Stansted on Sunday. March 15, transfers and taxes. Going Places (054) 555334) is offering seven nights' half board in Austria from £199 per person, departing from Luton on Saturday, March 14, and seven nights' B&B in Söll, Austria, departing from Birmingham, also on March 14. Return flights, transfers and taxes included.

☐ BLACKBURN Coachlines (01254 54400) is offering a three-day tour of James Herriot country. Two nights' half board accommodation at the Hospitality Inn Hotel, Harrogate, plus excursions to Thirsk, Wensleydale, Hawes, Swaledale and Richmond and a tour of York is from £89 per person, departing on Friday, March 13 from northwest England, including Blackburn, Liverpool, Wigan and Kendal.

☐ HAYES and Jarvis (0181-222 7822) has greatly reduced its offers to Thailand. Five nights' B&B at the Mercure Resort Koh Samui is now £559 per person, saving £178 on the brochure price, and 12 nights' B&B is £589 per person, saving £188, up to April 15. Return flights from Heathrow, transfers and UK departure tax are also included. Departs daily.

☐ FANCY a Roman holiday? Citalia (0181-686 5533) has cut its brochure prices by £50 during March. A package of two nights' accommodation only and return flights to Rome is from £177 per person: to Florence from £210 and to



Venice from £214 per person. Extra nights cost from £24 per person. Transfers and taxes are not included. Departs from Heathrow or Gatwick on March 13 and 14.

☐ HOPING for a hot getaway? Kuoni is offering seven nights' accommodation only at Hawksbill Beach Hotel in Antigua from £739 per person. including return flights from Heathrow, transfers and taxes. Departs on Wednesday, March 11; call 01306 742222 for details. Also on offer is seven nights' B&B at the Full Moon Beach resort in the Maldives from £718 per person. Return flights from Gatwick on March 15, transfers and taxes are also included. Call 01306

☐ BRITISH Airways (0345 222111) is launching a new route to Palma, the capital of Majorca, today. To celebrate, BA has a special offer on all fares on this route booked before March 18. Return flights are from £99 mid-week and £109 at weekends, including taxes. Flights depart on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; visits must include a Saturday night.

☐ HEAD FOR Istanbul with Travelscene (0181-427 8800), which is offering three nights' B&B and return flights from Heathrow from £238 per person, including taxes and arrival transfers. Departs daily.

JOANNA HUNTER

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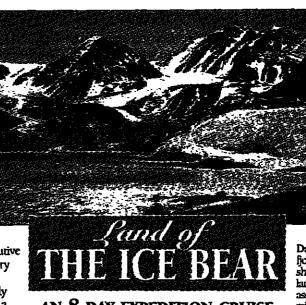
This summer, you have the opportunity to join the Professor Multanovsky as she undertakes a series of 8 night cruises in July. You will encounter great concentrations of seabirds from kittiwakes to the diminutive little auks and rarities like ivory gulls; magnificent fjords, a

tundra landscape miraculously dotted with wild flowers and a stunning scenery of sheer cliffs and vast glaciers. We will visit areas of

extraordinary remoteness and beauty, places enriched by highly unusual wildlife including reindeer, walrus, Arctic fox and most excitingly of all - polar bears. Although we will set sail with a

planned schedule, experience has shown us over the years that in order to achieve the most exciting expedition cruise, it may on occasion be advantageous to make changes to the itinerary, following a local reconnaissance, a change in the weather, ice conditions or perhaps a sighting of a polar bear or whale. Our 8 days in Spirsbergen will be much influenced by local conditions and because of our highly adaptable vessel and rodiacs we are able to offer a closeup, personal experience that simply is not possible aboard a large ship.

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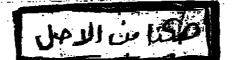
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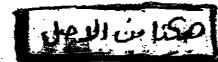


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TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



Modern view of Catalonia

ALL LOVERS of modern art should ensure that they pay a visit soon to Catalonia, a wonderful region of Spain which is positively overflowing with the works of some of the greatest masters of the

20th century.

These include Salvador Dali. Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso, to name but a few - and the Miró Foundation in Barcelona, to single out just one art gallery, has a magnificent selection of 5,000 drawings. 217 paintings and 153 sculptures.

Lakes and Mountains Holidays (01329 841405) has week-long guided tours that will take in the best of the exhibitions, galleries and museums. The tours will go yia Barcelona, Montserrat, Sitges, Cadaques and Figueres, where Dali is buried beneath his own



Tantalising: the Museum of

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surrealistic museum. They will take place during May and September and will cost £629. This will include flights and hotel accommodation, as well as some meals and entrance fees.

Babies only

THOSE planning a holiday without children should take note - you may wish to avoid Europe's first Baby and Family

Valley in Gmund, Austria. It offers amenities varying from babyamenities varying from baby-sitting and nappy walks inappy-changing facilities and fairy grottoes en route), to Baby City—a Wild West township with a saloon for wetting the throats of thirsty infants and drying the other bits.

There are 77 locations, ranging from five-star hotels to farmhouses, which cater especially for children, with flexible meal-times and no danger of childless guests complaining about the noise. Details from the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461; fax 0171-499 6038).

AS ONE Paris museum shuts its doors (Centre Georges Pompidou is closed for renovation until December 31, 1999) another one opens. Situated in the all-night district of Pigalle, the Museum of Eroticism, which opened in November, has been described as a "treasure house" of erotica ranging from ancient Roman wind chimes that are overtly masculine, to what the butler-say Victoriana. The museum, at 72 Bonlevard de Clichy, is open daily, 10am to 2am; entrance £4.

Georgian trek

SHERPA Expeditions (0181-577 2717) is introducing two-week treks to Georgia in June and September, starting and finishing

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in Tbilisi, the capital. The expeditions will travel in four-wheeldrive vehicles into the gorges and highlands of the Caucasus, stopping at medieval monasteries and fortresses. From there, ten-day treks among the mountains include visits to the villages of the Khevsureti region, a forgotten wilderness where many traditions have remained unchanged for

centuries.

Both trips cost £1,170 for flights and 15 nights' full-board accommodation in tents and hotels.

In memoriam

THE Royal British Legion (01622 716729) offers 27 escorted tours worldwide this year, "Many people come for personal reasons, either because they fought there or to visit a relative's grave, but our tours are open to anyone interested in military history," says the organiser, Piers Storie-Pugh. "And remember that the arrangement by which war widows can reclaim most of the cost of the tour from a scheme

government-sponsored

ends on April I next year." Destinations include Burma, Indonesia and India, Israel, Korea and Europe.

On August 7, the RBL is returning to Ypres for a three-day visit to mark the 70th anniversary of the first large British Legion pilgrimage to honour the dead of the First World War. The cost is E179 which includes coach travel and half-board hotel accommodation. A weekend trip in September will visit some of the East Anglian airfields from which up to

5,000 flights were made each day in the Second World War. On the itinerary: Duxford, where the first Spitfire landed in 1938; Little Walden and Bassingbourn, base of the Memphis Belle, star of the film. The trip, on September 12-13, costs £129 half-board.

QUARRIES and tin mines, cotton mills and lighthouses are among the 58 working and living sites listed in an Industrial Heritage leaflet from the National Trust, owner

of the premises. The earliest. dating from 1584, is the site of Britain's first copper smelting works, Aberdulais Falls in Wales, where water is now used to generate electricity from a turbine and from a new waterwheel in the original wheelpit. The most recent is the Atomic

Weapons Research Establishment base at Orford Ness, which was in operation from 1959 to 1971. The leaflets are available free from the National Trust (0181-315 1111).

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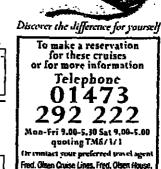


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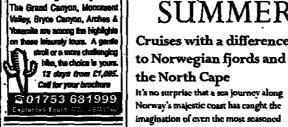


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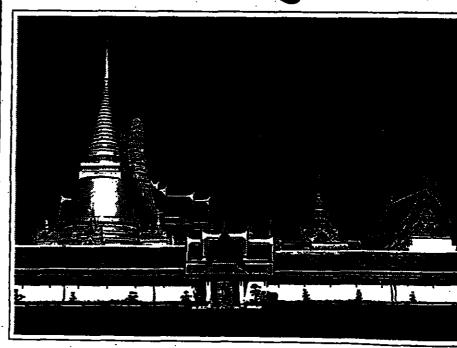
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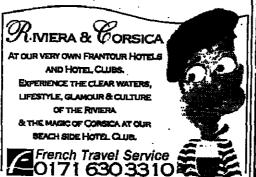
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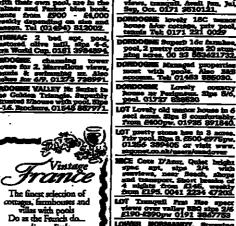


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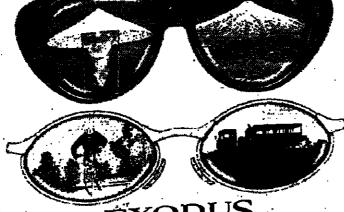
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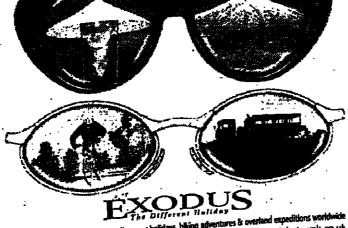
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ville): Joel Ouaknine (St Cross):

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bridge: Mark Ferguson (Queen's):

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David Moskovic (Queen's): Jack

The first match was held at the

Rudd (Girton): Ben Morgan (Mag-

City of London Chess Club in 1873.

There were at least 400 speciators

with world chaunpille ship contest

ers such as Zukertort and

Blackburne to keep them entertained by analysing the games. Among some of the intellectual

giants who have represented the universities in subsequent years have been L.S. Penrose, later a

professor at London University.

Kingsley Martin, who went on to become editor of the New States-

man, astronomer Fred-Hoyle and

polymath Jacob Brenowski. This

week's game is taken from the first

match to be held after the end of the

White: W. Winter; Black

Ne3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Nbd7

8 Rd1 cxd4

A trap to avoid now is 5 exd5 exd5 6

This is too slow. More chances of

counterattack are afforded by 9 ...

10 cmd5 Nxd5 11 Bxe7 Nxe7

Retrograde but 11 ... Qxe7 12 Nxd5

exd5 leaves White with a com-

Nxd5 Nxd5 7 Bxd8 Bb4+ when

Cambridge v Oxford 1919

Queen's Gambit Declined

•3 Be7 6 N/3

Black wins material.

Nxd4 a6

dxe4 10 Bxc4 Qa5.

First World War.

T.H. Tylor

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

DDAY, the intellectual equiva- manding strategic advantage with

t of the Boat Race takes place no black compensation.

afternoon at the Royal Antotile Club, Pall Mall, is Leaving
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the Club,

away, the moterion from around his king, After 12... Nife, the best move, Black need not fear 13 Nice

Bite 14 Bxh7+ since White surren-

ders too much material to win the

black queen 13 he Res 14 Bugs tugs 15 h5 goh5 16 Ruh5 gs 17 Rh3 kg7 18 ke2

A tare case when avoidance of

castling furthers White's prospects

Threatening all sorts of horrors

such as Nxe6+ or Rxg6+. If Black tries to defend with 19 ... Rh6 then

20 Rhl Rxhl 21 Nxe6+ is still

.18 ... Rh8 19 Rg3

of aggression.

decisive.

19 ... 21 Qc3‼

ANAGROMINOES are played with a normal set of dominoes, seven being dealt to each of four players. At the start of the game, 14 different consonants are assigned in seven pairs to represent uniquely the number of spots on an end from 0 to 6.

Whenever a domino is played (apart from the first one), one or both ends must touch one or more dominoes which have already been played. The numbers do not have to match, but the player must instead think of a word (or a recognised phrase) for each touching end of the domino that has just been played.

Words must include the consonant pair represented by the number on the end of the domino and may include consonant pairs for any other numbers which that end of the domino touches; any combination of vowels (including Y) may be added, but no other consonants. A four-consonant word scores one point, a six-consonant word two points and the maximum eight-consonant word scores

The player gives a definition of each such word and play passes round the circle. The player with the most points at the end wins.

For the first turn only, each end is deemed to be touching its opposite end. So the player must make two words according to the rules by using just the four consonants represented by the two numbers on the first domino.

In this game, players A, B, C and D found at least a four-consonant word (or phrase) for each of the two touching ends in every turn: the clues give the two definitions and their answer lengths. The diagram shows the board at the end of the game, each number representing a number of spots on an end of a domino. Solvers need only draw in the outlines of the dominoes and show which players come first, second, third and fourth.

Al Achieve (6) Plant (7) B1 Grooved (6) Let Down (7)

Ci Hit (6) Meat (5).

D1 Speckle (5) Bothy (5) A2 Arguer (7) Person under obligation (6)

B2 Tail (5) Groom (8, hyphenated)

C2 Slotted (7) Protuberances (5) D2 Pining (6) Tower (6)

A3 Game (12, hyphenated) With a tuft of hair above the hoof (9)

B3 Volume (6) Crumbly (7)

C3 Insect (8) Riding place (9) D3 Expand (7) Drawn (8)

STARVED OF a little culture? If so,

go to the Tate Gallery's Web site for many treats for the eyes as well as details of the current Pierre

Bonnard exhibition in London, which runs until May 17. While

the Tate.

worldwide.

enline you can join the Friends of

The site, although not completely

up and running, is packed with information and artwork, starting

with a prominent section about

Bonnard (1867-1947) One of the great originals of 20th-century art,

he was "a master of colour and

light in the tradition of Monet, Gauguin and Matisse". The first

major retrospective of Bonnard's

work since 1966, the exhibition includes more than 100 works from

public and private collections

"His celebrated bathroom pic-

tures, in which Marthe, his lifelong

companion, is observed following

the daily routine of washing and

drying, are the successors to Cé-zanne's bathers," we learn. "Bonnard's painting analyses the processes of seeing, looking and

remembering, investigations that make him one of the most radical

artists of his time. He has inspired

painters as diverse as Mark Roth-

ko, Balthus, Francis Bacon, Elis-

discover the meaning of life for

yourself you must explore seven

routes, including Birth, Fighting

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First call is an empty operating

theatre, into which John Cleese and

Graham Chapman burst to per-

form a birth. Clicking on hot-spots

moves the event along, by install-

ing pinging medical equipment,

then introducing the unfortunate

mum-to-be. The action is played out in jerky photo-realistic anima-

The game is but a minor diver-

sion, despite coming on two discs.

It has a few genumely funny

moments, but not enough. The title

suffers from the same problem as

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vision series: the humour now

■ Verdict: 7 out of 10. Last laughs

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A4 Anti-aircraft (6, hyphenated) PR man (5)

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B4 Compacted (6) Water mill part (10, hypbenated) C4 Home economics skill (7) Collecting (8)

D4 User rhetoric for the better (9) Tirade (8) A5 Upset (6) Storage time (9, hyphenated)

B5 Party (8, 2 words) Knocker (6)

C5 Missile carrier (11, 2 words) Making fuel (6) D5 Native (9) Put away (10)

A6 Encroach (7) Reconciling (11) B6 Shaver (6) Level (5)

C6 Drop solidly (5) Collected as a set (9)

D6 Winning (7) Washing (10) A7 Cracker (6) Strip of leaves (9)

B7 Bobble (6) Alarming (8)

C7 Vegetable (9) Trees (8)

D7 Quickly (7) Coloured (9)

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iclued li			

54a Jerome K. Jerome 63a W. Shakespeare 17d Aldous Huxley 19d David H. Lawrence 3d Nathaniel Hawthorne20d Walt Whitman

33d Kenneth Graham 36d Wilkie Collins 6d Charles Dickens 8d John R.R. Tolkjen The title is a clue to PRAENOMEN

The winner is Edward B. McConkey, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. The runners up are Stuart Williams, of Canterbury, Kent: Paul Dendy, of Mold, Flintshire: P.A. Long, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: Bernard Grabowski, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, Mrs J. Walker, of Crowthorne,

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

WHEN THE dummy holds a collection of small cards in a suit and you are sitting on declarer's right and switch to that suit, i.e. up to weakness, it is important to help your parmer to judge whether to cominue the suit should he win the trick. This example came up during the France v Argentina match in the 1997 Venice Cup in Tunisia.

⊕ A732 ♥ ©108 **♣ AK**J

▼ J965 + KJS

N E **±** Q1085

 ♣AC106 · · • • Q1054

Contract Four Spades by South Lead: (1) the jack of hearts (2) the eight of hearts

Both Souths played in Four Spades after North had opened One Club and East-West had bid and supported hearts. The Argentine West led the jack of hearts to the queen and king and East switched to the two of diamonds. Declarer put in the queen and when West won her king it was difficult for her not to return a diamond into declarer's tenace - after all, if declarer had a similar hand but with five clubs and three diamonds lacking the ten, it would be essential to estab-

lish a second diamond trick immediately. Having won the second diamond, declarer played ace and another trump and soon had ten

At the other table the French West player led the eight of hearts (the French play "third and fifth" leads) to the ten and king. Here. however, East switched to the seven of diamonds. Again that went to the queen and king but the high spot card had warned West not to expect her parmer to hold strength in diamonds, so she switched back to hearts. Declarer rulled and crossed to dummy with a club to play a trump towards the queen; East went in with the king and played a second diamond. Now declarer did not have the communication to ruff a further heart in hand as well as draw trumps and cash the clubs, so

she had to lose a trump and a diamond for one down.

The point of the hand is that, whatever system of leads you normally play, leading through deplayer and up to weakness is a declarer and up to weakness is a special situation and only "attitude" leads - a low card to promise a high honour and a high card to deny interest in the suit - really get the job done. Be very clear, if your defence goes, as at the first table, that it is not your partner. West, who has let through the contract but you, East, for your unhelpful two of diamonds switch.

● The Times Book of Bridge I by Robert Sheehan is available from bookshops or from Bausfords (01376 321276), at £6.99 plus p&p £1.

WORD ANSWERS Answers from page 40

(a) To put in abeyance or waive. From the Old French abeer to gape for, aspire to", said of the claimant. "All right of rank and place abeyed, I'll follow any of

BABELISM

(b) Noisy confusion of speech, strange utterance. A toponym from Babel. "Hungry critics, with their usual acrimony and babelism." BOANTHROPY (a) A form of madness in which a man believes himself to be an ox. Read about Nebuchadnezzar doing it in Daniel. In

Greek boûs is an ox and anthropos a

man. The exact form of the disease, which would be Boanthropy, I have not found any notice of."

(a) The fungus called puffball (Lycoperdon bovista). "Still in use in Suffolk." Britten and Holland. "For

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 40

Opestion I: SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER

Ouestion 2: 49. The first minus the last Roman numeral gives the age (C-L = 50; L-V = 45; V-I = 4; L-I = 49)

Cyberspace Forty One is in two

parts. First, you must come up with

a suitable competition idea for this

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES



The Tate Gallery's Bonnard exhibition is now on the Web

worth Kelly and

Howard Hodgkin." The Bonnard section includes a guide to the exhibition. This text is also available in French. Elsewhere at this slick site are quick overviews of the Tate's venues in London, St Ives and Liverpool, each with opening times. The Tate Library has more than 120,000 exhibition

catalogues and a rich archive department and offers extensive coverage of 20th-century art, especially after the Second World War. This library can be accessed online via the site between 10am and 5om. from Monday to Friday.

The most delicious feature, which will be operating shortly, will be the ability to call up 3,500

Later, the General Collection and new acquisitions will be included. Pictures are in colour, fairly small, column - but not based around gratifying nonetheless. To complete your virtual visit to the Tate site, you can join the Friends' scheme, make mail-order purchases from the Tate Shop with a credit card and sign the visitors' book. The Tate Gallery Web site is: http://www.tale.org.uk

images from the Oppé Collection.

THIS IS the last call for Cyberspace Forty One which closes on Tuesday. We have £2,000 worth of Hewlett Packard palmtops on offer. First prize is an HP 620LX, an £800 palmtop with impressive features including a backlit colour display, I6Mb of RAM, Windows CE 20 preloaded. AC adaptor, rechargeable battery pack, synch cable and docking station for desktop PC linking.

The two runners-up prizes are HP 320LX packages each worth £600. These have 16-greyscale backlit screens and 8Mb of RAM but otherwise the same additions as their big brother. Pull-down menus in Windows CE 2.0 are activated with the stylo and touchsensitive screen and make it easy to organise yourself on the move.

any particular prize. Competition entries can only be in a written form, so suggestions requiring drawings, for example, cannot be accepted. Your idea should be witty, humorous or entertaining and have a wide appeal. If possible, it should also accommodate readers of all ages. The judges will award marks for originality and ingenuity. The second part of the competition is to explain, in 50 words at

most, where in the world you would most like to use a Hewlett Packard palmtop and why. Cyberspace Forty is open to all readers. If you are 16 or younger, please give your age.

Send your entries, with your name, address and telephone number, to Cyberspace Forty One, Computer Games & Pastimes. Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You can also enter by e-mail, as long as it is clearly identified as a Cyberspace Forty-One entry with the above inclusions, at cvber@dircon.co.uk. Normal Times competition rules

THE Monty Python team briefly re-formed to record some new material for the latest CD-Rom spin-off from the genre, Monty Python's The Meaning of Life. To Black had been hoping to minimise my knowledge this is the third White's aggressive chances Monty Python computer game through a policy of exchanges. However, the inspired text casts a during the past seven years and it is by far the best of a poor bunch. Take 2's title is a mix of Python harsh searchlight on to Black's weaknesses along the dark squares. If now 21 ... Nxe4 22 film clips and animations, old and

Nf5++ is murderous. 21 ... e5 22 Nd6 Qd7 23 N415+ Kg8 24 Nxc8 Qb5+ If 24 ... Rxc8 25 Rxd7 Rxc3 26 Rd8+ and White wins a rook.

25 Qd3 Qxd3+26 Rxd3 Rxc8 27 Ne7+ Kg7 28 Nxc8 Rxc8 29 Rh3 Ne4 30 Rh4 Black resigns

After 30 . . . f5 31 f3 or 30 . . . Rc2+ 31 Kdl Rc4 32 Kel Rcl+ 33 Rdl Rxdl+ 34 Kxdl NxD+ 35 Ke2 and the knight is trapped.

WINNING MOVES

WHITE to play. This position is from the game Ramos - Prado, Cuba 1997. White's winning move in this

position demonstrated some neat



tactical themes. What was it? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to Winning Move com-petition, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Rb8+

The winner is: T. Taylor, of Lake, Isle of Wight.

new. The game kicks off with the opening titles of the Python film of the same name, released in 1983. To

Monty Python: third game

not so simple when that book is on the desktop computer in another room. So, cookery-book software titles have to offer something more.

and colour pictures. The title boasts more than 100 authentic Italian dishes, with easyto-follow video demonstrations for

The title's trimmings add value and appeal to the double-disc package. There is a comprehensive guide to pasta, informative pages about suitable wines to accompany certain dishes and which coffee and olive oil to opt for if you want to get your dining experience just right. Italian traditions, culture and etiquette also are explored.

expected to be released next month, the latter, to find out how sushi is

Werdiet: 8 out of 10. Delicious learn-to-cook Italian tutorial. £19.99.

NEW SOFTWARE

The decent Europress title, The Tastes of Italy, does much more than merely offer a few tasty recipes with written instructions

their preparation.

A Taste of France and A Taste of i'm especially looking forward to

cooked.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 152 <u>SIPIAINII SIHIAIRIMIAIDIA DIEIMII UIRIGIEI</u> NOTFORALLTHETEALNCHINA OCKSTOCKANDBARREL Two more titles in the series are KNEEHIGHTOAGRASSHOPPER IP|R| I |S|O|N|E|R|

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Mrs G.J. Jones, of Bristol, Avon

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN

A friend invited me to a two queries. If I attach a card to a family hunch at a local respresent in an envelope, do I need taurant. Having a dislike of heavy lunches, I ate frugally and drank abstemiously, but my companions ate and drank copiously. To my surprise, I was not consulted on the choice of wines, nor shown the bill, which was settled by my friend's brother. I was a little taken aback when told that the bill for seven was to be divided equally among three adults, of whom I was one. A gentle hint that I should like to see the bill was disregarded. My own view on the sharing of restaurant bills is that, though gentlemen may vie for the honour of buying the wine, no one need expect to subsidise the appetite of others. Was I the victim of gross discourtesy, or could I be misinterpreting an uninhibited gesture of friendship? — William

Dixon Smith, Acomb, York A I am afraid this is a case of pay up and shut up. It would have been thoughtful of someone to have acticed that you had eaten and drunk

comparatively little, and thus let you off paying towards the tip. But as such an offer was not forthcoming. for you to have made an issue of it would have appeared chur-

Later this year I am getting married, and, although I am certain of my choice of a best man. I am unsure whether to send him an invitation as a guest. -

D. Challinor, Earlstown, Lancs A The best man should be sent an invitation not only because he is a guest, but also as a memento of an important day where he plays a vital role.

Some associates have a habit of finishing every sentence with a direct look accompanied by a large grin and a pause in the conversation; as a way of demanding my acknowledgement of what they have been saying. This is fair enough if it is a pertinent point. however, if it is a neutral point or if I wish to reserve my opinion until later, I feel I am being coerced into agreeing. Are you able to offer an acceptable way of discouraging this behaviour? -Name and address withheld.

A Cleverly considered facial gestures should do the trick. Next time you find yourself in one of these pregnant pauses, let your eyes momentarily lose direct contact with the other person by glancing to one side. At the same time allow a small but casual smile this not work, then fall back on lightly changing the subject.

As you suggested in a recent column, I am going to have

present in an envelope, do I need to write anything on it? Secondly, 1 also have a home in France. Should I put the London address and the Paris address on the same card? — Name and address sup-

A The back of the card can be used for writing any short and relevant message or greetings ranging from "Happy birthday" to 'I love you". Some people even use these cards as miniature invitations and write on the back social instructions such as "Drinks: March 12, 6.30pm". As far as showing your twin addresses, the principal one should go on the bottom left-hand side and the second one should appear on the bottom right-hand side. If you are feeling super-indulgent, you could have a set for each country.

You once criticised someone who attended parties without ever giving one himself. In ther situation, a

couple in a new neighbourhood kindly invited everyone around to get to know each other, only for this to result in reciprocal parties going on ever since. Some people attended initially just to be sociable, but they neither really like nor perhans can afford to contribute to an endless round of drinks parties, and would

rather maintain friendship in more modest ways. What should they do without upsetting anyone? - P Warner. Newbury, Berks.

They should ensure that they are always the most wonderful guests. At other people's gatherings they should make an enormous effort to be the life and soul of the party and offer to help out. Afterwards they should send exquisitely written thank-you letters and/or lovely bunches of flowers as a sign of their appreciation. Soon they will have a reputation for being such consummate social animals that people will almost forget that they never actually give parties themselves.

When we visit an old friend, a parson, grace is always said before a meal. When he lunches with us, should we say grace — out of respect for his custom - or should we, and our other guests, just tuck into the food as we would all do normally? - Name and address withheld

A Do him the honour of inviting him to say grace himself by adding something to the effect of: "I'm afraid we are rather an ungodly lot here and don't often say grace before meals, but would love it if you could do us the honour today.

JUMBO CROSSWORD 154

● The author is Associate Editor of visiting eards printed. But I have



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

a. To put in abeyance b. A Moroccan chieftain c. A suffragan abbey

BABELISM

 b. Confused noise c. Spasmodic tics BOANTHROPY

 Unnatural hairiness BULLFIST

a. Cowlike behaviou

b. Charity to the sick

a. A puffball b. A matador's pass c. A class of yacht

Answers on page 39

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

IN 1879 in Virginia in the US, Thomas Fuller (aged 79) calculated mentally the number of seconds elapsed in any given time period. For example, for 70 years, 17 days and 12 hours the correct answer was given in one and a half minutes: 2,210,500,800 (assuming a 3654-day year).

A copy of tough puzzles is available from BEAP, Glenthorne House, Hammersmith Grove, London W6 OLG.

TIME'S RUNNING PAST" WE MURMUR is an anagram of four words connected to each other and the sentence. What are the words?

Question 2: If Charles is 50, Sylvester is 45 and Kevin is 4, how old is Louise?

Answers on page 39





CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

described earlier how Sympathy simplifies grid construction and throws up interesting words. Now I am exploring Crossword Compiler, available from its author Antony Lewis, 16 Townley Rd, London SE22 8SR. When I used its "autofill" facility to generate ten standard grids, the resultant words showed satisfactory variation, with a good ratio of less common letters. However, in each grid there were a few obscure words that I would rule out, such as pseudoephedrine, occlusal, esophagi (the latter being an American spelling, that, curiously, turned up twice in the first five grids). For now I believe that my current method of filling

in the grid interactively, using software to list options available at each stage, suits me best.

Crossword Compiler has many more helpful features. such as a wide variety of grid types (e.g. French-style grids in which the clues are numbered using a co-ordinate system). Of more practical use to the mainstream compiler are the facilities for writing, editing, and printing clues, and constructing clue databases. For any completed grid, statistics are available such as the mean word length and the letters used (a useful check for our pangrammatist). One aid that I may find useful is the facility to enter a word and view its multi-word anagrams. Trying

INTERACTIVE, for example, got a long list beginning CRE-ATIVE NIT and ending TARTIC VEE IN. My initial reaction is that I am not convinced that it affords a great advantage over the low-tech method of moving Scrabble letters around by hand. Such software does efficiently the parts of the job that computers can reach. The hard creative part remains the writing of elegant and amusing clues. I lose no sleep worrying that compute ers will be doing that in my lifetime — though the attempt would represent an appropriate challenge for the Artificial Intelligentsia.

The writer is Crossword Editor of The Times

PICTURE LINE

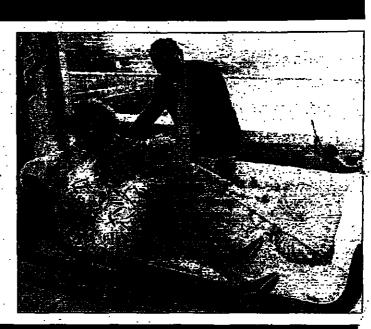


READERS are invited to suggest what Lord Archer of ton-super-Mare and Dame Edna Everidge might be saying to one another.

This picture, recently printed in The Times, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, March II.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Mr John E. Ramsey of Belfast, Northern



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Let their friendship stand as a symbol of the peace process." - Tony Blair on the shooting by loyalist gunmen of best friends Damien Trainor, a Catholic, and Philip Allen, a Protestant, at Poyntzpass in Co Armagh

describing his new £300-a-roll wallpaper "It was only £5,000." - Officials refuting

"You're not talking about something down at the DIY store." - The Lord Chancellor

ham's new desk cost £10.000

"It seems nothing is sacred where Eurothe body and blood of Christ." - from L'Avvenire; the Italian Catholic daily, on an EU plan to introduce sell-by dates for Communion waters

"I just regret that our people weren't more forthright about it at the very beginning

reports that Farms Minister Jack Cunning-when I was with them." - Rupert Murdoch. "So the Universe began as a tiny partichairman and chief executive of the News Corporation — which owns The Times and publishers HarperCollins — on the decision not to publish Chris Patten's book on China.

"We hope Mr Howell will accept the invitation as the party will be outside." -Buckingham Palace spokesman after a guest was injured by falling plaster during an

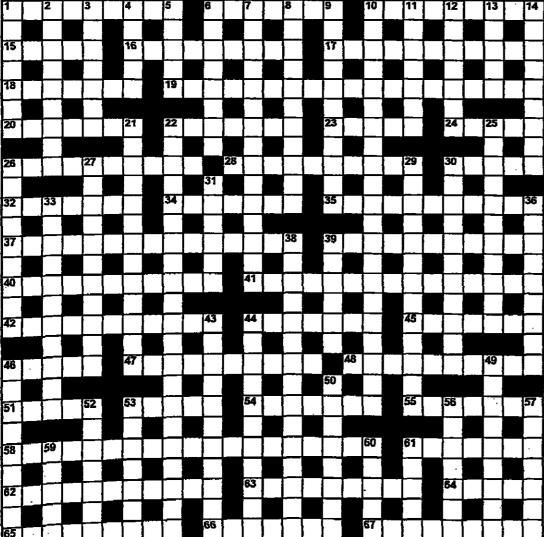
Would Professor Hawking explain. this particle got there?" - Letter to Times

Times

"He was a kind of comedic meteor." Fellow actor Frank Kelly on the late Dermot

ALFRED DUNHILL

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 154, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, March 19. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on March 21



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ACROSS

- Company hiding account fraudulent racket (9) 6 Black cat daughter threw out (7) 10 I caught a cold, one caught in eation — vitamin needed
- 15 Portrayed looking strained (5) 16 Outside venue suitable for afternoon service maybe (3.6) Unlikely to be diminished, not to
- be put down by the psychiatrist? (6-5) (0-5)

 18 Extended flight to make delivery welcomed by recipient (4.3)

 19 Bristly types arriving on the scene produce results (3,6,5,5)
- 20 Pantomime boy involved in a racket (7)
- 22 Bigwig much favoured gets wounded (7)
- 23 Wader in water getting thrust back (5)
 24 Stand-in office worker, one for the
 "Musical Times" (5)
- 26 Early during a purple patch (2.4.4) 28 Meat dish may appear to be stewed hear! (10)
- 30 Very wicked person lacking the right style (5) 32 Clairvoyant about to stop working, feeling less well (7) 34 Raise English tax to keep the French — the ultimate in injustice
- Concerned with being in tune with Kierkegaard? (11)
 37 When a tile comes down immediately (2,3,4,2,1,3)
- 39 1 grin at fun I can be maddening (11) 40 At home trying to absorb school subject — it helps if it's this (I l)
- 41 New public notice? Look at green one with people in group (15) 42 Runner provides products I can 44 State of chaos in a foreign port (7)
 45 Criminal accomplice in Lincoln,
 time and time again getting gold
- New worker on land about to start on harvesting (5)
 47 Conceited, Celia's got to reform, I admitted (10)
- 48 One married foreign fighter, highly regarded, came to live here (10) 51 In fact, editor exerted influence (5)
- 53 Way Head of Marketing establishes a device for communications (5) 54 Anger shown by boy around the north, in a "green" area? (7) 55 Clear task to produce an interconnected organisation (7)
- 58 Partners in a very powerful son et lumière (7.3.9) 61 Cold bread? (4,3) 62 Man in a ship's sailing round
- Caribbean Sea (7.4)
 63 Icon touring the East with fashion that's not very visionary (9) 64 Fuss about new circular painting
- 65 Walk behind, having grabbed little tot, primarily for coaxing 66 Architectural device used in

67 Long sentence — way of writing showing set of attitudes, etc (9)

honours presentation

- DOWN 1 Character under some foreign seas, we hear? (7)
 - 2 Labour offers little comfort for these workers in union (5.4) 3 Longed to have companio cuddled and squeezed (7) 4 Available out of the barrel? (2,3) 5 Long time before appearance of
 - 6 To make allowances for churlish person and funny guy that's hard (4.4)
 - 7 Orbiting astron sorts (5,3,7) aut isn't so out of 8 Soldier is crazier, going into road boilard (11)
 - 9 Separate beds, and I am less wriggly (1 1) 10 Cave carl be useful when trouble lurks (10,2,9)
 - 11 Little man that is not heartless is merciful (?)

 12 Mimic PC, and finally annoy spiteful woman (?)
 - 13 Drug circulating round hospital block (5) 14 Protecting English marshes, get submerged around the periphery
 - 21 Character has reticence going into protected area of land (6,7) protected area of land (6,7)

 22 Extended version of play associated with small community? (6,6,2,7)

 25 Splendid periodical has poem put in pleasing set of books (11)

 26 Establishing in street a receptacle for collection — good! (9)

 27 Girl joins local division to bring token of reconcillation (5.6)

 29 Resoluteness making legal decision (13)
 - 30 Good time for drink a gin, tea, very possibly? (7.4)
 - main (3.3)
 33 The conferring of an honour seen as right? (11) 36 Bound to have enticed, hiding one piece, perhaps (9): 38 Tarn's fouled up, Mum? Scottish loch is the essence of clarity (15)

31 What obscures one's vision, in the

- Where they say circulation is maintained, to no avail (2.4) 43 Blame screen for obscuring 44 Record associated with a poster
- 46 Musicians rendering notes around us, keeping it up (9)
 49 What rare and expensive item
 aren't available from net pay
 now? (3,1,5) 50 A shelf in vehicle could be source
- of disease (8) 52 Father, very good and hely man, was unconventional artistic type (7)
 53 Drug brings additional worry, roughly speaking (7)
 56 Understood American historian (7) An opening for one wishing to do
- 59 Edict as conveyed by peer losing head (5) 60 Librarian's first to support dynamic Russian writer (5) 61 Bundle female found under nut

Ery? (7)

"Got where?" - Subsequent letter to The "Father Ted" Morgan

No 1347

DOWN

Innocuous (8)

Beer mug (7)

comedian (5)

Electron's path (7) A canal: 1956 debacle (4)

11 One in confinement (8)

15 Type of Muslim country (7)

ij.

13 Division of book (7)

16 Developed embryo (6)

18 Characteristic spirit (5)

19 Funny man (5)

20 Feigned (4)

With-it (6

Short: advise (5)

Robert the -; Lenny -, US

ACROSS Natural environment (7) Footwear, hotel employee ODICE (5)

8 Be king (5) 9 Unvarying placid (7) 10 Desperately vital (matter) (4-3-5) 12 Withdraw (from political

union) (6) 14 Johannes -, laws-of-motion discoverer (6) 17 Disassemble (4.2,6)

21 Short are (7) 22 Paperwork (5) 23 Stains; notices (5)

24 Type of jacket; Sir Winston — Churchill (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 1346

ACROSS: 1 Hump 3 Brickbat 8 Marvell 10 Relax 11 Split second 13 Climax 15 Borgia 17 Kick up a fuss 20 Whiff 21 Shelter 22 Dogberry 23 Serf DOWN: 1 Homesick 2 Mural 4 Relief 5 Corroborate 6 Bulkdog 7 Taxi 9 Entrance fee 12 Sanscrif 14 Inkling 16 Purser 18 Untie 19 Owed

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